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Hidden dangers on your dressing table  
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## APPOINTMENTS

26 pages of top jobs, Section 3

Conditions rejected as insulting

# Blair boycotts secret look at Scott report

By Philip Webster and Nigel Williamson

THE Government was again thrown on the defensive over the Scott report last night when plans to allow a handful of politicians early sighting of the document were derided as a Whitehall farce.

John Major faced a personal protest from Sir Richard Scott over the handling of his 1,800-page report on the arms to Iraq affair, including the decision not to let MPs see it before the President of the Board of Trade makes his Commons statement this afternoon.

At the same time, Tony Blair led a boycott of arrangements under which he and others were to be allowed to read the report at the Trade Department from midday. Mr Blair, Lord Richard, leader of the Labour peers, and the Liberal Democrat, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, said they had no intention of doing so under the "extraordinary and insulting" conditions proposed.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, will use the

facility, but he protested that the Opposition was being treated like common criminals. "The more we learn of the Government's handling and attempted manipulation of the report, the more obvious it becomes they have a great deal to hide," he said.

Downing Street, however, defended the conditions for viewing the report as perfectly normal and denied that there would be locked doors and armed guards. The rooms being used were "very pleasant" and there was nothing sinister about a "minder" standing outside. "The Government would be horrified at the suggestion of giving offence," a source added.

MPs will be able to pick up their copies of the report when the Commons adjourns for ten minutes at 3.30 pm before Ian Lang makes his statement.

Sir Richard has written to Mr Lang complaining about the Government's refusal to allow MPs to have the report

earlier, and yesterday he told the Prime Minister personally of his irritation.

They did not discuss the contents of the report "in detail" during their half-hour meeting in Downing Street, but Sir Richard took the opportunity to emphasise the need for "even-handedness". A spokesman for the judge said that Mr Major had thanked him for his thoroughness.

In his letter to Mr Lang, Sir Richard wrote: "You seem to be apprehensive about most MPs, members of the House of Lords, and the media, having access to the report at the same time as access is given to those who are criticised in it."

Mr Major is certain to face calls today for the resignation of ministers over the arms to Iraq affair, with William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, appearing the most vulnerable. Mr Major is determined to fight to keep them and he is expected to try to contain the row by taking the first opportunity to state that he will not sack them.

Even so, Mr Cook and colleagues believe that it will be several days before the full impact of the report has sunk in and the Opposition intends to campaign right up to the Commons debate on Monday week for the dismissal of any censured ministers.

Inquiry who's who, page 8  
Leading article and Letters, page 19



Jonathan Powell for Blair writes to John Alty of the DTI

# Ordeal by speed reading in a windowless dungeon

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

Move over John Le Carré. Step aside John Buchan. It is time to make way for John Major, who has written a chiffring script to accompany the launch of the blockbuster *The Scott Report*.

In the Prime Minister's racy plot, unnamed chauffeur-driven saloons pull to a halt, lone passengers are delivered by armed guards to solitary windowless cells where telephones are mysteriously cut off. Any urgent incoming messages are routed through "Annabel", and all players are frisked to ensure that Q has not provided them with hidden cameras, poison pens or radio-transmitters in their shoe heels.

Labour's Robin Cook, with



"Mind you, if you're looking for a real page-turner..."

his flaming red hair and chiselled chin, will momentarily be allowed to take the lead part as a political Robert de Niro. His sidekick will be the grey-haired Liberal Democrat, Mervyn Davies, who will become the next Robert Donat in the saga of Scott's 39 steps.

The Prime Minister's complicated game for those political enemies who insist on an advance reading of the Scott report will begin at 11.45am today, less than four hours before publication.

The two heroes from the opposition parties will be told to meet outside the Members' entrance of the House of Commons — probably carrying a copy of *The Times*. They will be allowed to dress in their own clothes but must not take any suspicious items.

Tape recorders and mobile phones will be confiscated. Nor will Cook and Campbell be allowed to take their own lunches.

As Big Ben chimes midday in the forecourt, two chauffeur-driven black cars will sweep up. The doors will be opened by security guards and the two men will be driven with a police escort 300 yards down the road to 1 Victoria Street, home of the vast Department of Trade and Industry.

There they will be met by two minders and marched down the stairs to the basement where they will be shut in two windowless padded cells each furnished with only a wooden desk and chair.

No communication will be allowed between the men. The phone lines will not work and they will be prevented from sending any messages to the outside world. Any incoming calls will have to be vetted by "Annabel".

For three hours the men will be incarcerated in their soulless rooms and subjected to an ordeal of high-speed, force-reading of the 1,800 pages of the indigestible Scott report. They have already been warned by their Miss Moneybags that this will mean reading one page every six seconds.

They will not be allowed to

Continued on page 2, col 1



Serena and Nicholas Soames. "My husband said he was very, very proud of me"

# Wife gets her own back

By Andrew Pierce

SERENA SOAMES, the wife of the Armed Forces Minister, Nicholas Soames, was so enraged by the theft of her family heirlooms that she spent three days roaming antique shops in the back lanes of Brighton until she tracked them down. Her successful solo detective work earned her a £100 reward yesterday from the High Sheriff of West Sussex.

Mrs Soames, 36, who is 6ft 1½ins tall and like her husband a friend of the Prince of Wales, launched her investigation after thieves stole £10,000 worth of antiques from her home in Horsham, Sussex. Police said she might

have luck if she checked antique shops. It was in one of these that she saw the first of her treasures, an oak boot jack, in a shop.

Yesterday, after receiving her reward at Chichester Crown Court, she said: "I had been extremely upset by the burglary. I wanted my possessions back... My husband said he was very, very proud of me. I have just missed his birthday so I think I will buy him a Valentine's present."

Police had advised her to concentrate her efforts on Brighton, one of the most popular centres for antiques. After spending hours trudging

around to find the boot jack, Mrs Soames returned to her task the next day — and found her paintings in another shop. Spurred on by her success she returned a third time and found a small oak bureau. The items were stolen before her marriage in 1993.

Darren Nelson, 32, was convicted at Chichester Crown Court in June of five charges of handling stolen property. Nelson, who used to run an antiques shop in Brighton, was given a two year jail sentence suspended for two years. The trial judge recommended that Mrs Soames should receive her reward.

# 500 extra soldiers for Ulster

By Nicholas Watt  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A FORCE of 500 extra troops is to be flown to Northern Ireland as part of the Government's military response to the breakdown of the terrorist ceasefire.

The soldiers from the 1st Battalion, the Royal Irish Regiment, will be deployed at bases in border areas where headline IRA supporters are concentrated. The move, which brings the troop presence in Northern Ireland back to a pre-ceasefire level of 17,000, marks the end of the Government's policy of slowly withdrawing soldiers in the wake of the IRA ceasefire.

Ministers have been careful to respond to the renewed terrorist threat in Northern Ireland in a measured way. In the absence of IRA attacks in the Province they do not want to exacerbate nationalists by dramatically increasing Army patrols.

Dr Joe Hendron, the SDLP MP for West Belfast, described the move as regrettable because he claimed the

Continued on page 2, col 5

# Liverpool mourns manager Paisley

By Kate Alderson

LIVERPOOL, a city divided by a passion for its two football clubs, united in mourning last night for Bob Paisley, the most successful manager in British soccer history. He died aged 77, having served Liverpool FC for 17 years.

Paisley, a former player and backroom figure, shuffled reluctantly into the limelight as club manager when Bill Shankly stood down in 1974. On his first day in charge, he told the players he did not want the job, but in the next nine years he steered the club

to six league championships, three League Cup triumphs, three European Cups and a UEFA Cup success.

Paisley cut an unassuming figure. He once wrote: "When I took over, I said I hoped the team would do the talking for me. I did."

He had played 250 games for Liverpool before becoming physiotherapist, reserve-team trainer, first-team coach, assistant manager, manager and director.

In the city where Shankly once described football as more important than life or death, flags were at half mast yesterday for Paisley, who died in the arms of his wife, Jessie.

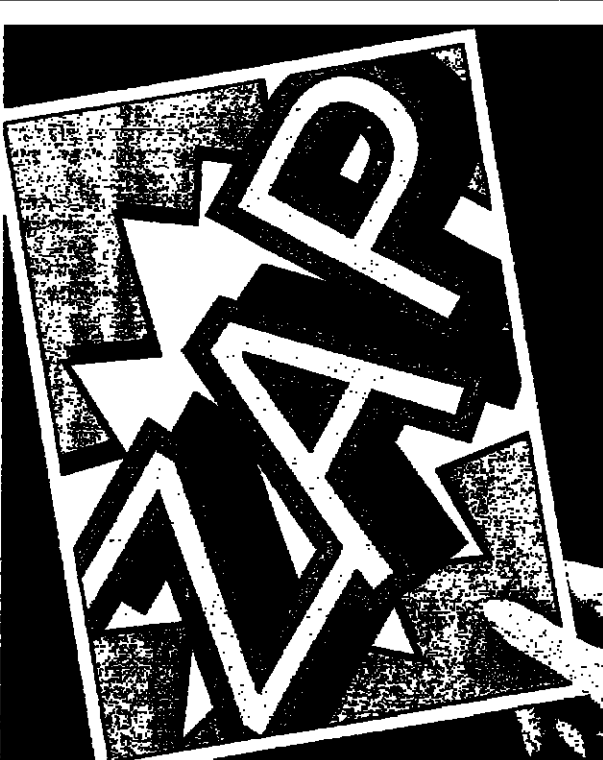
Kevin Keegan, now manager of Newcastle, said: "I don't think anyone who came into contact with Bob could have anything but total respect for his honesty and integrity. No one should underestimate what he did for Liverpool."

Emlyn Hughes, a former captain of Liverpool, said: "He took the side to heights of glory that will never be matched in English football."



Paisley: 57 years of service to Liverpool

Obituary, page 21



Not bad for a £799 black and white fax.

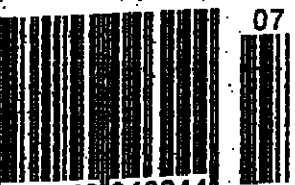
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## Close escort gives peers sense of insecurity

In her seat yesterday in the Lords Chamber, Baroness Thatcher, impeccably groomed as always, looked strained and sad. It filled this sketchwriter with melancholy for, though we have seen her look a great many things, she rarely looks sad. It reminded me of the day she left the Commons for the last time, remaining in the Chamber after the Speaker and MPs had left, and tidying papers on the clerks' table.

It seemed that a mood of unease gripped the Lords as a whole. These things are hard to define, but there was a strange irascibility about the Upper Chamber yesterday. Peers mooded at each other

and rumbled under their breath with a surliness seldom found there.

Why could this be? Dignity has been affronted in many corners of this gilded palace by the Government's arrangements for Lord Richard (for Labour) and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead (for the Liberal Democrats) to see the Scott Report at noon today, some three and a half hours before statements in both Houses. A letter has been received from a mere secretary in the Department of Trade, outlining the plan. It goes like this: a DTI car would collect any eligible peer from Westminster. "You will be met in the car park by an official... This official will



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

escort you throughout your visit [my italics]. This will be for your convenience and security."

Can you imagine the reaction of Lord Jenkins to the idea that some kind of a guard would be following the great man about? Was the eminent historian to be handcuffed to some tattooed bouncer from a private security firm?

"You will be escorted to a room in the DTI conference suite, where you will be able to read the report... Your

escort will be just outside your door. I would be grateful if you would not use a mobile phone or any other form of communication."

The very thought of Lord Jenkins using anything so undignified as a mobile phone beggars belief. He would not know how to work it, statesmen and former Chancellors have people to do things like that for them.

"You will not be able to take a copy of the report with you. When you have finished read-

ing, please contact the escort outside your door, who will arrange for the report to be taken into secure keeping. They will then take you back to the car which will return you to the House." The final indignity comes in a form, to be signed and dated, promising neither to leak the report nor run away with it.

Lord Richard, the Labour leader in the Upper House, has exploded with indignation. "Outrageous," he comments, "and demeaning, not only to me... but to the House. I am not prepared to accept [these conditions] and will not therefore be attending." Lord Jenkins is in a similar strop, and has with-

ingly enquired whether he is to be locked in a padded cell.

Their lordships feel, I sense, under attack from both Right and Left. The Tory Government is treating them like common politicians, while the Labour leadership is promising to abolish most of them as legislators. Piling on the agony, journalists now deconstruct votes to discover what the result would have been if hereditary peers had been excluded.

The Lords' chamber has never been the right place for Lady Thatcher. Yesterday, bored and fed up, and their lordships in tetchy mood, the Baroness looked more out of place than ever.

## Solicitors' leader accuses vengeful opponents of blocking vital reforms

### Attack on 'enemy within' splits the Law Society

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE President of the Law Society launched a strong attack on his opponents last night after he was accused of being preoccupied with enemies within and of being an ineffective reformer.

Bitter divisions in the organisation's ruling council emerged as Martin Mears blamed a handful of members for blocking his attempts to overhaul the society. He also accused his opponents of mounting a disinformation campaign about low morale and possible resignations at its Chancery Lane headquarters, aimed at damaging him.

Mr Mears was speaking after one of the rivals he defeated to become president last year accused him of attacking the society's staff and of failing to lead the

65,000 strong profession. The society, which employs 700 people, is both the regulatory and trade union body for solicitors in England and Wales.

He dismissed an open letter from Eileen Pembroke criticising his record as an "hysterical rant". Ms Pembroke's attack disclosed in public the extent of the division in the ruling council, which has split into rival factions.

Last month a group of his supporters on the 75-strong council gave him a watch engraved "Don't let the bastards get you down" and said he felt isolated.

Ms Pembroke said Mr Mears was not a man of "charisma, vision or positive forward thinking. He is not, in short, a leader." She accused



Mears: blamed clique

him of becoming "ever more preoccupied with those he sees as his enemies, which renders him ineffectual as an agent of change."

Staff at Chancery Lane had become demoralised since he became president, she claimed. "They are frustrated

and fearful. Their time and efforts are wasted; it is increasingly difficult for them to undertake their jobs or keep their teams together." Ms Pembroke said in her letter to the profession, published in *The Lawyer* magazine.

After presiding at a special meeting of the ruling council during which both sides refrained from openly attacking each other, Mr Mears dismissed the letter as a "diatribe" and added that it was "the same sort of vitriolic attack I got used to during the election period from Pembroke."

He admitted there were problems of morale among the staff but accused his opponents of blaming all difficulties on himself and his vice-president.

Mr Mears, a solicitor from Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, became president last year in the first contested election in 40 years. He ran on an anti-establishment ticket and yesterday said he had not been forgiven for upsetting those who had hoped to become president on a "buggins' turn" basis.

He added that there were people on the ruling council who wanted to see him fail. Mr Mears was unwilling to identify his strongest opponents but said there were about eight or nine people who were "absolutely hostile" to him.

Mr Mears admitted that his plans for reform would be delayed until later in the year because of the strength of the opposition. Yesterday's special council meeting, organised at a cost of up to £22,000, took place because a meeting last month spent much time on an angry attack by Mr Mears on



Pembroke wrote open letter attacking Mr Mears for his ineffective and demoralising leadership

Sue Stapley, the head of public relations, and attempts by other council members to defend her. He had questioned her motives in circulating through the society's cuttings service a report from *The Mail on Sunday* which had accused him of hypocrisy in his private life.

□ The Lord Chief Justice yesterday denied that the judiciary was attempting to take over the role of government by

overturning ministerial decisions in the courts. Lord Taylor of Gossforth defended the right of judges to reverse government decisions in the wake of concern among ministers and Conservative MPs that judges were extending the scope of judicial review.

He also dismissed as "non-sense" suggestions that decisions taken by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, had been targeted by judges.

## Tabloids told not to break tapping code

Two tabloid newspapers were admonished by the Press Complaints Commission yesterday for publishing details of a tapped mobile telephone conversation involving the Duke of Edinburgh. Although it received no formal complaint about the articles, the commission told *The Sun* and the *Daily Mirror* that such pieces would not be tolerated. It requested both papers to review their procedures covering the publication of tapped telephone calls.

The commission reminded the editors of both titles that Clause 5 of its Code of Practice bans journalists from obtaining or publishing "material obtained by using clandestine listening devices or by intercepting private telephone conversations", unless the material is in the public interest. It said it would not hesitate to uphold complaints in future breaches of the clause.

## Snail joins road protest

Anti-road protesters are hoping that the discovery of a rare snail on the route of the Newbury bypass could halt work. Despondent Whorl Snail - *Verigo moresiana* - was found in the Rack Marsh nature reserve. Friends of the Earth believes the habitat should be made a Special Area of Conservation, obliging the Government to carry out an assessment of the ecological impact of the road.

## Drug woman 'set up'

A 20-year-old British woman arrested in Thailand and charged with trafficking 9lb of opium said she had been set up. From her jail cell, Lisa Marie Smith, described as very bright by former tutors at Eastleigh College in Southampton, told how she accepted a bag from a man who asked her to fly to Japan with a message for a friend. "I cannot believe how stupid I have been," she said.

## NHS 'poaching' protest

The National Health Service is accused of immoral behaviour today by Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, former president of the Royal College of Physicians, for poaching doctors from South Africa. In a letter to *The Times*, he says that high salaries offered to solve a shortage of consultants is undermining the health service of South Africa, where he was born and now works. Letters, page 19

## Football father fined

A man who bullied and kicked another father at an under-18s football match has been ordered to pay £750 compensation and £2,000 costs by magistrates in Crewe, Cheshire, after his victim took out a private prosecution. Saleem Cheema, 39, who admitted causing actual harm, was initially let off with a police caution over the attack on Joe Tawil, 38, in Knutsford in June last year.

## Drought warning

Water companies gave warning yesterday of renewed droughts in some areas. The Water Services Association said there had not been enough winter rain. The watchdog Ofwat said that they should improve demand management and leak checks. Fifty drought orders are still in place in areas covered by seven of the water companies. North West Water and Yorkshire Water are the worst affected.

## Airline 'endangered life'

The first criminal prosecution of a scheduled airline for endangering life opened at Luton magistrates' court yesterday. The case, brought by the Civil Aviation Authority against British Midland, relates to a flight in February 1995 when one of the airline's Boeing 737s left East Midlands airport for the Canary Islands but had to make an emergency landing. The case was adjourned.

## WPC's new protest

A policewoman awarded £32,000 in an out-of-court settlement over allegations of sexual discrimination is taking the Metropolitan Police to a tribunal for a second time, claiming that colleagues made her life unbearable on her return. WPC Sarah Locker was promoted to detective constable after she returned to duty two years ago but she says other officers have refused to work with her.

## Boxer sought by police

An arrest warrant has been issued for Herbie Hide, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, after he failed to appear in court on a charge of damaging a car. Chris Youell, for the prosecution, refused to believe that Hide, 24, was ill with malaria after reports that he had been seen out in Norwich. He told the city's magistrates: "When you have malaria you do not go out at night."

## £2m carpet collection

The largest collection of carpets from a single owner ever sold at auction made £2,082,886 at Christie's in London, with strong prices for those from the Caucasus, Egypt, Turkey and Persia. The unique collection was assembled by four generations of the Bernheimer family, who ran a department store in Munich. The carpets dated from the 15th to the 19th century.

## Cook's ordeal by speed reading

Continued from page 1  
take extensive notes on the report or take a copy home, but they will be expected to memorise it all so that on their release they can brief their parties. Mr Major has closed

off all exit routes. Notes cannot be smuggled out through room service, as sandwiches and coffee will already be in the cell, and none of the opposition spies have yet found out whether they will be allowed to use the lavatories. The minder will be outside the door at all times, although DTI officials say he will not be armed.

By the time Cook and Campbell have escaped from their dungeons, Mr Major is hoping that he will be on his way to the House of Commons to hear the well-rehearsed statement on the Scott report. The two heroes will have just enough time to dash back and regurgitate everything they

have learnt to their cohorts before Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, stands up at 3.40pm.

A Liberal Democrat spokesman said: "It is like some terrible exam. We have to pray that our men find the right page in time to blow the Government's arguments to smithereens."

Two opposition peers who were invited as sidekicks were disgusted at the idea of having to play so tawdry a game and muttering that the things they already knew about state affairs and undercover operations would make Mr Major's goldfish blush. Labour was even angrier when it found out that its man, Lord Richard,

could not be trusted to share a room with Mr Cook but the two Liberal Democrat players had been offered the same cell.

Yesterday Lord Richard announced that he had "better things to do than play action man". Instead he will be having beer and sandwiches with the rest of his front bench in the Lords today.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the Liberal Democrat leader in the Lords, was even more aghast. "This is nonsense. I refuse to be locked up in a padded cell in these uncivilised conditions," he said. Instead he will go out for "a more relaxing lunch."

Race with time, page 17

## Ulster troops

Continued from page 1  
main terrorist threat was on mainland Britain.

Police chiefs are being summoned to a national security conference with M15 officers and Home Office officials to review the scale of the mainland terrorist threat after the IRA bomb in London's Docklands last Friday. Invitations have been sent to chief constables from 43 forces as Scotland

Yard officers continue to examine video film showing the two bombers leaving the lorry bomb on South Quay.

The security review came as Britain and Ireland maintained intense political efforts to put the peace process back on track. John Bruton, the

Irish Prime Minister who cut off ministerial contact with Sinn Féin after last week's bomb, has allowed the party to meet Irish government officials later this week.

Sinn Féin will tonight step up its campaign to be given access to British and Irish ministers when Gerry Adams, the party's president, delivers a keynote speech in Belfast. □ Mr Bruton will discuss the crisis in the peace process with President Clinton in Washington next month. The Prime Minister, who hosted Mr Clinton during his visit to Dublin last year, will be in Washington from March 13 to 15.

Paul Bew, page 18

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History repeats itself as youngsters pick up the political mantle from their parents

# Children of Ulster rivals fight to be student champion

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

TWO veteran political opponents in Northern Ireland will watch their offspring pick up their political mantle today when they fight for the presidency of the Students' Union at Queen's University in Belfast.

More than 25 years after Bernadette McAliskey (then Devlin) spearheaded the civil rights campaign at the university where her daughter is standing against the son of John Taylor, the deputy leader of the Ulster Unionists.

Deirdre McAliskey, 20, and Johnny Taylor, 22, sound like any student politicians as they stress that they are fighting to preserve the interests of students.

But the young McAliskey and Taylor are also fighting to uphold the respective political positions espoused for more than a quarter of a century by their parents.

Miss McAliskey, who is studying psychology, like her mother, makes no secret of her republican upbringing. She said: "My background is socialist and republican. I was brought up to have been brought up in such a political arena, but I have formulated my own political views."

Miss McAliskey, whose face stares out from posters all over students' union ahead of today's poll, stresses that she is

not fighting on a nationalist ticket. However, Mr Taylor, whose father studied applied science at the university in the late 1950s, is using his opponent's republican background in his campaign. He has criticised Miss McAliskey's decision to welcome the presence at Queen's of Sinn Féin, the republican prisoners' group.

Mr Taylor, who is known to his friends as JT, said that the presence of the group highlighted a worrying rise in republicanism at Queen's. Speaking in the offices of Gown, the university's student newspaper, he said: "Sinn Féin has a presence at some meetings. I'm calling on Unionists and nationalists to vote for me to stop the rot." He wants Irish signs taken down in the union and the National Anthem restored at graduation ceremonies.

Queen's University, which became the focal point of the civil rights movement in the late 1960s, has played a pivotal role in Northern Ireland politics over the past 25 years. It has produced leading politicians such as David Trimble and has been the focus of sharp debates about the future of the Province.

The IRA bombing last Friday inevitably cast a shadow over the election. Miss McAliskey and Mr Taylor, who both condemned the at-



Johnny Taylor and Deirdre McAliskey are both hoping to be elected president of Queen's University in Belfast

tack, were at a cross-community student meeting in Portlough, Co. Down, when the bomb exploded.

The candidates' parents, who have barely met during the past 25 years and who both survived assassination attempts, were reluctant to talk for fear of interfering with

their children's campaigns. But Mrs McAliskey, who was the youngest MP in the House of Commons when she was elected in 1969 at the age of 21, said yesterday: "I have two daughters who have reached adulthood. They are both independent and confident and I am very proud of them."

Taylor Jr said that his father, who was an active student politician during his days at the university, was unimpressed by his decision to stand in today's election. Mr Taylor, who is in his final year studying economic history and politics, said: "I knew my father would be annoyed with

me. He just wants me to work hard in my final year. But he seems to have accepted my decision."

A third candidate, Michelle McCauley, 22, the union's deputy president, has been dwarfed by her two rivals.

Paul Bew, page 18



John Taylor and Bernadette Devlin, the former political rivals who have hardly met in 25 years



John Taylor and Bernadette Devlin, the former political rivals who have hardly met in 25 years

## Docklands bomb-blast cat laps up the milk of human kindness

By PETER FOSTER

FRED, the cat rescued from the wreckage after the Docklands bombing, could start a new life in the country if he is not taken forward to claim him, the Cats Protection League said yesterday.

Doreen Ryan, who is nursing Fred back to health, said that the tabby and white cat was not wearing a collar when he was found and was probably a feral cat living on his wits and scraps of food provided by office workers.

She said: "Our first job is to get him

fit and healthy again and then try to reunite him with his owner, if he has one. He seems to be well-fed, so he could be a factory cat who lives on his own but gets the odd saucer of food from a cat lover."

"We will do our best to find him a home but if he is not suited to domestic life he will go to a farm or some stables in the country, where he can have a free run but be kept an eye on."

By yesterday afternoon no one had come forward to claim the cat who was rescued by two workmen as they prepared to board up a basement in a

building shattered by Friday's blast. After picking the shivering animal from the rubble they took him to Mrs Ryan, membership secretary of the Cats Protection League in Ealing, west London, who agreed to house him in an empty pen at the back of her house. "At the moment he is very nervous and shoots around a lot, but that may be because he is not used to people."

"Apart from a scratch to his face and being a bit shocked and dirty he seems fit and well and just needs a few days away from all the fuss and TV cameras to calm down," she said.

Fred is being kept in isolation until he is calm enough to be taken to a vet for vaccinations. He will have plenty of company next week when Mrs Ryan takes in 20 cats as families go on holiday over the school half-term.

Fred was last night reported to be enjoying his first taste of domesticity as he dined on steamed fish fillets bought by Mrs Ryan to settle his upset stomach.

Anyone who believes Fred is their cat or could offer him a home should contact Ann Fend, co-ordinator of the Ealing Cats Protection League, on 0181-995 2629.



Fred survived the blast with only a scratch to his face

## Gulf hero killed on weather flight

By A STAFF REPORTER

A PILOT killed in an RAF jet crash was named yesterday as a Gulf War hero who survived six weeks as an Iraqi captive. Flight Lieutenant Simon Burgess, 28, died when a Hawk trainer jet went out of control at Valley, Anglesey, on a routine solo mission to check the weather.

The experienced pilot from Humberside ejected but his parachute appears to have failed. F1 Lt Burgess was the RAF's youngest pilot in the Gulf War. He was part of a two-man crew who successfully ejected from their stricken RAF Tornado GR1 during a night mission over President Saddam Hussein's southern command in Basra on January 24, 1991.

Later analysis showed that one of their 1,000lb bombs went off too soon, sending the Tornado out of control. F1 Lt Burgess and the navigator, Squadron Leader Robert Ankerson, were captured by Iraqi civilians and handed over to Iraqi troops. He was freed on March 5 with eight other British prisoners of war, including F1 Lt Adrian Nichol, who had been paraded on Iraqi television in a broadcast that shocked the world.

F1 Lt Burgess, who was nicknamed Budgie, gained his

first RAF pilot's licence as a teenager and won an award for low-level flying. An investigation has been launched into Tuesday's accident. He leaves a widow, Nicola.

A Royal Navy Sea Harrier jump-jet from the carrier HMS Illustrious has crashed in the Adriatic, during a night landing on its return from an operational mission over Bosnia.

The pilot ejected safely and was recovered uninjured from the sea by a helicopter. It was the third Sea Harrier to be lost since operations began in the Adriatic three years ago.



F1 Lt Burgess: held captive by Iraqis

## How Raleigh lost out to 50p piece

By ALAN HAMILTON

TWENTY-FIVE years ago today Britain went decimal. And in the rush towards metric currency, we lost Sir Walter Raleigh on a 50p note.

Artists at the Bank of England were redesigning the much-loved brown ten-shilling note in 1967 when word came through that LSD was facing the death sentence. Harry Eccleston, the Bank's chief banknote artist, immediately produced a new note, marginally smaller than the present £5, and a few trial copies were made.

Rare examples of the note, in both its ten-shilling and 50p versions, go on show today in the Bank's museum in the City of London, as part of an exhibition commemorating 25 years of decimalisation. The note never went into production. Bank officials decided that in an era of galloping inflation, the life of such a low-denomination paper note would be short.

They opted instead for the widely unloved 50p coin, whose seven-sided shape, it is said to have been chosen so that it could be removed from a Scotsman's hand with a spanner. But there is still doubt over why the Bank chose Raleigh, pioneer importer of tobacco and potatoes yet beheaded for treason by

James I, to join a financial gallery of less-tainted national heroes which includes George Stephenson, Charles Dickens, Sir Christopher Wren, the Duke of Wellington and Florence Nightingale.

John Keyworth, curator of the Bank of England Museum, said yesterday: "When the designer was asked at the time, he said his choice was more a reflection on James I than on Raleigh."

Noel Moore, a retired civil servant who in 1971 was secretary of the Decimal Currency Board, recalled that decimalisation had been delayed because of a long-running debate over whether to base the new system on a ten-shilling unit, which would have been easy and convenient, or £1, which at the time was awkwardly divided into 240 pennies.

"History has proved that James Callaghan, who was Chancellor of the Exchequer at the time, was right to opt for the pound. Had we opted for a decimal unit that was worth 50p people would have got the idea that the currency was being devalued. Besides, the rate of inflation since the 1970s would have meant that all the coppers in the coinage would by now be worthless metal," Mr Moore said.

## Cabbie reckons without North Sea

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A TAXI driver who agreed to take a hospital doctor to work was recovering yesterday from a 1,300-mile round trip that took five and a half days to complete and left him hundreds of pounds out of pocket.

Vincent Martin's ordeal began eight days ago, when he agreed to transport Dr Thambithat Arudchenathan, 30, and all his belongings from Boston, Lincolnshire, to Lerwick in the Shetland Islands to take up his new post as a senior house officer at the Gilbert Bain Hospital. Dr Arudchenathan, who is

from Sri Lanka, had calculated it would be cheaper to take a taxi than to fly to Lerwick and hire a van for his belongings: the flight alone costs £254. He called Star Taxis in Boston and asked if they would accept the fare. After a few hastily scribbled calculations on the back of an envelope, Star quoted a price of £300 for the trip and set about finding a driver.

Mr Martin, with only a vague idea of the geography of the route, accepted the challenge and, at 3am on February 7, they set off on a 13-hour, 440-mile journey through blizzards and high winds to Aberdeen, where Mr Martin was anticipating a

two-hour ferry crossing to Lerwick. Nineteen hours later, after 200 miles of being tossed about in one of the roughest parts of the North Sea, they docked in gales and sleet.

Mr Martin delivered the doctor and started for home only to discover heavy seas were preventing the P&O ferry St Clair from sailing on Thursday. There was no crossing on Friday and it was not until Sunday afternoon that Mr Martin reached Aberdeen after spending Saturday night at sea in a gale. He reached home in Lincolnshire at 9pm on Monday afternoon.

The Shetland Health Au-

thority, which reimbursed Dr Arudchenathan's expenses, agreed to pay the taxi firm an extra £100, but Mr Martin calculates his loss to be £300.

A spokesman for Star Taxis said if they had known the crossing took 14 hours and that Mr Martin could be delayed for three days on Shetland, they would have charged £700 for the job. Mr Martin said: "I don't want to point the finger of blame at anyone. The doctor looked after me and got my meals for me. The Shetland people were very friendly. It was just the monotony of being away from my family. I'll put it down to experience, albeit a bad one."

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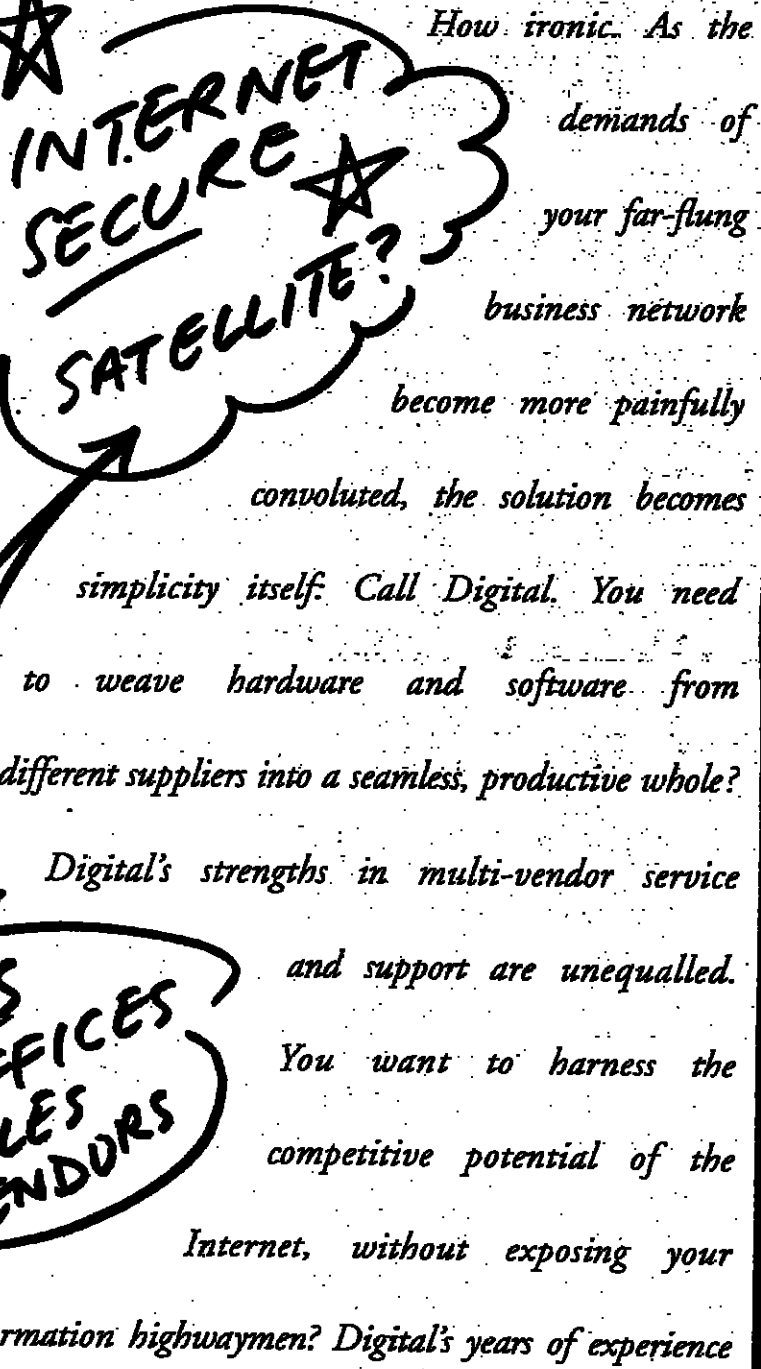
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Synod told how debts mount in episcopal palaces

# Church rejects call for bishops' pay to be cut

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

FACED with a vision of a cash-strapped bishop struggling with Tesco shopping bags, huge gas bills and mounting debts, the Church of England yesterday rejected calls to pay clergy equally.

The Right Rev Michael Baughen delivered a moving description at the General Synod of the penury he faced after he was made Bishop of Chester in 1982. Speculation had been mounting that the 500 clergy and laity, if not the bishops themselves, might support a motion to abolish stipend differentials.

Quoted from the Gospels about the merits of poverty were banded about. "There were calls for the Church to set an example to a materialist world. But in one of his most passionate contributions to the synod, Bishop Baughen, who earns about £25,000 compared to the average vicar's £13,450, made it acceptable for a servant of Christ to espouse the merits of a decent wage. "The

first shock of moving into a big house was the gas bill: £1,000 for the first quarter, and we were plunged into debt," he said. "Furnishing the palace drained every penny. We were catering for other people, washing up for Christ's sake, lugging back shopping from Tesco's every week."

He referred to the recent decision to sell Bishopscroft, the palace occupied by the Bishop of Portsmouth. "Headlines like 'Bringing bishops down to size' and 'Get them out of their palaces' are very hurtful when you give 100 hours a week to Christ's work and live in a little sitting room upstairs with no home life. We look at many vicarages with envy."

Other speakers who supported the bishops' higher wage almost apologised for doing so. Viscountess Brentford, from the Chichester diocese and a member of the House of Lords, said it might not be "politically correct" in

theological terms, but argued that bishops deserved more money than their clergy. She referred to the only bishop's wife who is a member of the synod. Lady Brentford said that the time that Molly Dow gave to assisting her husband, Bishop Graham Dow of Willesden, made it almost impossible for her to find a job of her own. The income of many vicars was supplemented by their wives' earnings.

Lady Brentford said: "The entertaining bills do run up. As a bishop's wife, it is very rare to get lots of gifts in kind, which as a clergy person in a big parish is quite likely."

In 1835, diocesan bishops earned on average 16 times as much as parish priests, which if sustained today would entail average bishops' stipends of more than £200,000. By 1939, bishops were paid six times as much and now earn twice as much. If senior clergy had their stipends reduced to those of rectors and vicars, the

Church would save £2.6 million, more than three times the amount that would be saved by proposed organisational changes.

The Archbishop of Canterbury earns £45,350, the Archbishop of York £39,730, the Bishop of London £37,030 and other diocesan bishops £29,450. Suffragan, or assistant, bishops, deans, provosts of cathedrals and archdeacons earn £20,210.

The Ven John Packer, Archdeacon of West Cumberland, who proposed the motion, said: "It is impossible and wrong to value Christian ministry financially. Authority lies in the Gospel and its service, and not in the way we distribute our finances."

He was supported by the new Bishop of Dudley, the Right Rev Rupert Hoare. "We are being called to stand more decisively over against the society in which we find ourselves and not to conform to it."



STEWART KENDALL

All gas bills and gaiters: Bishop Baughen had to pay £1,000 for a quarter's fuel

## Marriage 'must have greater support'

LEADERS of the Church of England should speak out more strongly in support of marriage, Baroness Young said yesterday. She urged the Church to support calls for a longer cooling-off period than is proposed in Lord Mackay of Clashfern's divorce reforms.

Lady Young, who is leading the opposition to the proposals in the House of Lords, told a fringe meeting of the General Synod that many young people were looking for a lead, which should come from the Church. "The Church has got a terribly important role to play in all this."

She told synod members that they carried more authority than her. "The Church needs to say very firmly it actually supports marriage." It should be seen as the first port of call for those whose marriages were in difficulty, she said.

At the fringe meeting, entitled "Finding Fault With The Family Law Bill", Lady Young welcomed the call by the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, for the Bill's cooling-off period to be extended.



The Goodriches' life since the election in 1981

## £25,000 is not enough to live in a cold castle

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

WHEN Margaret Goodrich was a young teacher and the wife of a parish priest, coming the penury was second nature. The Church has ensured that old habits are difficult to shake off.

Her husband may be the Bishop of Worcester, and they may live in a castle, but the Right Rev Philip Goodrich's stipend of £24,950 is not enough to finance anything approaching a lavish lifestyle. She is sympathetic to the argument that all clergy should be paid the same, but believes that a modest differential is the right way to go about reflecting responsibility in the Church of England.

A straw poll of bishops' wives shows little enthusiasm for the motion proposed by the Ven John Packer, Archdeacon of West Cumberland, at yesterday's General Synod that bishops' pay be stripped back to the level of parish priests — about £13,450. There is concern for curates trying to make ends meet on £12,000 a year and they say that if anything needs to be changed, the pay of those on the lowest rungs should be raised.

Mrs Goodrich, 59, said: "I do get annoyed when the odd bishop's wife grumbles about their lot. The pluses far out-

weigh the disadvantages. You meet many interesting people because the Church is involved in all aspects of local life."

Hartcliff Castle, the diocesan house, numbers among the disadvantages. "It is so expensive to maintain and uncomfortable to live in that the Church has considered selling it. The Goodriches are confined to a small apartment which has none of the conveniences of a modern home. They have the heating on for only three hours a day."

Many bishops and their families have to take an effective drop in their living standards when they are promoted. Lisa Smith, 48, wife of the Suffragan Bishop of Tonbridge, the Rt Rev Brian Smith, had to give up her job as a development officer for Age Concern when the family was uprooted to their new home in Sevenoaks, Kent. "If [promotion] didn't make up the difference," she said.

However, she added: "I am not on a street corner in a cardboard box. The stipend is reasonable. What is missing in the Church system is adequate recognition for the stipend levels of responsibilities exercised by the many team leaders, rectors, rural deans and senior incumbents."

### HOW BISHOPS COMPARE

	Anthony Turnbull Bishop of Durham	Diocese North Durham NHS Trust Hospitals	Gerald Stubbings MP (Lab) (City of Durham)
Salary/ Stipend	£24,950	£64,000	£34,085
Budgets	£6,000,000	£56,000,000	£42,754 office allowance £11,561 (supplementary London allowance)
Personnel	280 clergy	2,500 employees	1 full-time staff (65,000 constituents)

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□ Douglas Hurd MP believes a White Paper on Europe to be necessary (article, February 12) and has never opposed one.  
□ Minsthorpe Community College is in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, and Roodcliffe CE School is in Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire (report, February 6).

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Cambridge team's 'shoestring' instrument takes sharper picture from a field than Hubble in space



Professor John Baldwin with part of the optical telescope at Lord's Bridge Observatory near Cambridge. The entire instrument cost £880,000

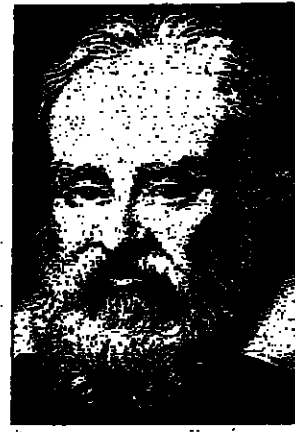
## British telescope revolutionises view of the stars

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITISH physicists have perfected a telescope that can take a sharper picture than the Hubble space telescope.

But it is not orbiting the Earth like Hubble, nor on a remote mountain-top like other powerful and costly modern telescopes, but in a muddy field five miles southwest of Cambridge. Professor John Baldwin, the leader of the team that devised it, calls it the first fundamentally new type of optical telescope since the days of Galileo.

Coast — for Cambridge Optical Aperture Synthesis Telescope — has just produced its first images, of the star Capella in the constellation of Auriga. This has been known to be a double star for nearly a century, but no telescope had been able to show the two stars as separate, as Coast has



Galileo: first astronomer to use optical telescope

now done. Coast uses interferometry, a technique developed by radio astronomers to combine signals from widely separated instruments. This has never before been done with light, because its much shorter wavelength imposes almost impossibly precise standards if the light waves are to remain in step.

The Cambridge instrument, costing £880,000, consists of four small telescopes with 40cm (16in) mirrors. Each is pointed at the same object and their light combined to create the image.

This involves maintaining the path length — the distance the light has to travel — very precisely to keep its waves and troughs in phase. As the Earth rotates and the star moves across the sky, its distance to each telescope changes.

To allow for this, the light is bounced off a mirror carried on a mobile trolley. A laser monitors the position of the trolley to an accuracy of five millionths of a millimetre.

The beams from each telescope pass through plastic tubes into a tunnel, roofed in corrugated steel with a metre of soil and grass over it. This provides a stable temperature, vital for the accuracy of the beam paths.

Once the beams are merged

they can be made to interfere with one another, producing patterns which are detected by photodiodes and turned into an image electronically. The result is to produce a telescope with the same power as one which had a mirror as large as the distance between the individual elements in Coast — about six to seven metres.

And, unlike such a big mirror, Coast is less affected by the atmospheric turbulence which has driven astronomers to the tops of mountains and into space. That is why it has been able to separate the stars in Capella even from a site with such poor "seeing" as Cambridge.

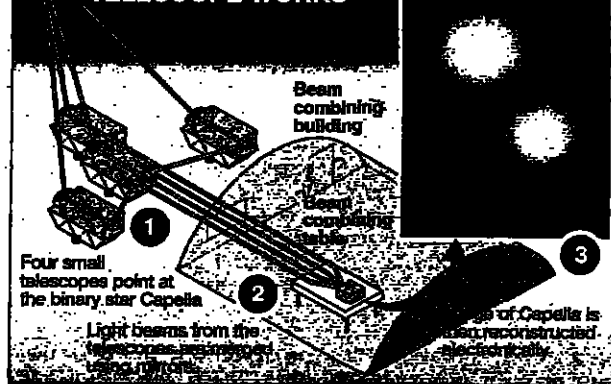
Coast's ability to distinguish detail is about five times better than Hubble, Professor Baldwin says. Where it cannot match the space telescope is in light-gathering capacity, which enables Hubble to take images of extremely dim and distant objects. Nor can Coast take "snapshots". The Capella image needed ten hours of observation.

In future, Professor Baldwin hopes to take full-colour pictures by using light of different wavelengths, and improve resolution still further by increasing the separation of the primary telescopes. He believes it will be possible to produce a telescope equivalent to one with a mirror 100 metres or more across, with phenomenal resolving power.

The Cambridge team has been working for eight years to achieve its first successful image, proving that remarkable results can still be achieved in astronomy without needing to spend tens of millions of pounds. The technique was copied from radio astronomy, where it has increased resolution by a factor of 100 million in 20 years.

Professor Baldwin said: "We should be able to do much better than Coast, which was designed to be the smallest and cheapest we could build, just to prove it works."

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Dr Johnson, left, with Mr Abdalla: "All our patients should get treatment free"

## Concern as NHS unit undercuts private clinics

# Investigation into price war for test-tube parents

By JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH officials launched an investigation yesterday after a price war broke out among test-tube baby clinics. An NHS hospital, the Chelsea and Westminster in west London, had announced it was offering *in vitro* fertilisation at £800 per cycle compared with a typical private bill of £1,500 to £2,500.

At a press launch, Dr Mark Johnson, consultant endocrinologist, said they were charging the basic cost because consultants were waiving private fees, while the private hospitals who dominated the treatment had been able to "charge what the market would bear".

However, a Department of Health spokesman said that couples who paid for treatment should be regarded as private patients and treated outside NHS time. Legal responsibility rests with the NHS trust only for patients who are treated on the NHS,

A new drug that can halve the risk of rejection in the early months after a kidney transplant is about to be licensed in Britain. Mycophenolate mofetil, a Roche product expected to be marketed as CellCept, "is the most exciting development in transplantation for a decade", Neil Parrott, a consultant transplant surgeon at Manchester Royal Infirmary, said. Current drugs fail to control rejection in 40 per cent of transplanted kidneys and eventually the patients concerned are likely to need another transplant.

but remains with the consultant if they are treated privately. The spokesman added: "We are looking into this as a matter of urgency."

At the Chelsea and Westminster, infertile couples are treated free if their health authority agrees to fund the cost, or must pay the price themselves. Many authorities refuse to pay, or impose restrictions such as on age. The price does not include drugs, which add a further £400-£700.

The hospital claimed yesterday that its price was the lowest available in London and possibly in the country. St Thomas's hospital also

charges £800 but this is going up to £900 from April. King's College charges £650 but cannot fit in new patients before April, when its price will rise to £850. Walsgrave hospital, Coventry, charges £800 to patients paying for themselves — and £665 if their health authority pays — rising to £900 in April.

There are 69 clinics providing IVF, of which only half a dozen treat NHS patients. Latest annual figures, for 1993, show 18,000 women had 21,000 cycles of treatment, resulting in 3,089 live births.

The Chelsea and Westminster unit was opened in November and aims to handle up

to 1,000 cycles per year. Dr Johnson said the charges had been driven down by "cost pricing", in which the unit charges only for use of the facilities and staff.

Sam Abdalla, a consultant gynaecologist who also runs the infertility clinic at the private Lister hospital, said: "We got fed up seeing patients who needed *in vitro* fertilisation and telling them they would have to go to the private sector."

Earlier Mr Abdalla attacked the refusal of health authorities to pay for test-tube treatment: "Everywhere in this hospital patients have free treatment. But not here. That is because health authorities do not regard infertility as a disease."

"That is absolute rubbish: it is a major disease for which women have to undergo major operations. All of our patients should get treatment free. But we live in the real world and if patients are not funded, we want to charge them cost price."

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## Witchdoctor heads north on grisly quest

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A WITCHDOCTOR is due to arrive in Britain from South Africa today in search of the shrunken head of a long-dead ancestor. Chief Nicholas Gcaleka believes the head of the warrior King Hintsa lies somewhere in Scotland.

Museums up and down the country have been searching their collections, but as yet have found no trace of the 160-year-old relic. Chief Gcaleka, who flies into Heathrow this morning, is undeterred: he is determined not to leave Britain without it.

King Hintsa, Chief Gcaleka's great-great-uncle, died in May 1835 at the hands of a military guide of Scottish descent called George Southey during the Sixth Frontier War between the Cape Colony and the Xhosa. Chief Gcaleka believes his ancestor will not rest in peace until his head is returned to his native land.

The former drink salesman and Methodist minister has no fixed itinerary and will be guided in the search for the head by the spirits. His spokesman in Britain, Robert Pringle, says the chief will almost certainly visit Scotland in the next fortnight.

He is particularly keen to go in Fort George, near Inverness, where the 72nd and 75th Highland regiments were based. According to the chief: "The soldiers that killed Hintsa were Scottish people.

The spirits have told me so. They have even showed me in dreams where it is. I have seen it."

Colonel Cummings, who runs the Highlanders Museum at Fort George, has made a thorough search and is adamant there is no head. He said he would be pleased to show the chief around the museum and assist him as best he can.

A spokeswoman at the Army headquarters in Edinburgh said she had telephoned dozens of Army museums in Scotland to try find the head, but so far there was no sign of it. "We will be happy to help him if we can but because he is taking travel advice from the spirits, we don't know when he is arriving," she said.

Barbara Buchan, of the National Museum of Scotland, said: "We don't have the head. We have checked and we simply don't have it. Our collection of shrunken heads is pretty small. If we did have it we would certainly let him know about it. We have some skulls in our collection, but they are mostly of European origin."

Mr Pringle said yesterday: "Chief Gcaleka is the top witchdoctor in South Africa and, if he finds the head and takes it back, it will end all the heartache and violence in South Africa."



The break-up of Take That has left fans bewildered

## Tearful pop fans swamp ChildLine

By CAROL MIDDLEY

TEENAGE girls traumatised by the break-up of the pop group Take That have swamped the ChildLine charity with calls.

Hundreds of fans poured their hearts out to counsellors, some saying they felt bereaved, a few suicidal. Calls came through the night, with surges yesterday during school breaktimes and lunch hours. Fans erected a makeshift shrine at Oxford Street in London. In Piccadilly Circus the Samaritans' number, 0345 909090, was displayed in lights throughout the day.

Jill Carter, spokeswoman for ChildLine, founded ten years ago to help abused children, said most of the girls calling felt they were going through a genuine crisis. "We talk to them about their options, tell them to share their distress with other fans and ask them if there is a teacher or someone they could go to. Some feel they won't be taken seriously, but parents

should try to sympathise as much as possible." She said many had built their lives around the band and now faced a void.

Jane Furbank, a child psychologist, said: "To grown-ups the fans' reaction seems to show a dramatic lack of perspective, but growing up is [about] finally acquiring that perspective. To these girls these young men from Take That are their first love. They have built it up in their heads that they could, genuinely, have a future with them."

A spokeswoman for RCA, the band's record company, said many calls were being referred to ChildLine, but if they increased the company would set up its own line. "We are very concerned if fans are feeling suicidal, but we must stress that this isn't the end of Take That. They are all individuals and are still going to go down their own paths."

Alan Coren, page 18

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هنا نحن النحل

Criticism over arms-to-Iraq affair will range from a rap on the knuckles to severe censure

# Who's who in Scott spectrum of right and wrong

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON  
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister and several members of his and Margaret Thatcher's governments are expected to be criticised with varying severity in Sir Richard Scott's report on the arms-to-Iraq affair today. Sir Robin Butler, head of the Civil Service, is also in the firing line. Others, such as Michael Heseltine, should come through unscathed.

## JOHN MAJOR

Charge: As Foreign Secretary wrote to various MPs saying guidelines on arms exports to Iraq had not been changed. FO official had told him in July 1989 of an unannounced change in the policy. Was told by Alan Clark that a "nod and a wink" had been given to machine tool companies to exports to Iraq.

## WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE

Charge: As junior Foreign Office

minister was one of three ministers who secretly changed the guidelines on arms exports to Iraq and decided not to tell MPs. In a parliamentary answer in May 1989 denied any change in the policy. Wrote similarly to MPs and others on at least 27 occasions. Approved machine tool exports when security service reports said they would be used to make arms.

## SIR NICHOLAS LYLE

Charge: The Attorney-General advised other ministers they had a duty to sign public interest immunity certificates to prevent documents being released in court that were essential to the Matrix Churchill defence. Urged the trial judge not to divulge documents "in the public interest" and was prepared to allow innocent men to go to prison. Failed to ensure that Mr Heseltine's objections that the certificates looked like a cover-up were made known to the Matrix Churchill defence.

Defence: The intention of PII certificates is not to gag but to allow the court to take final decision on disclosure. He in turn

was acting on legal advice, including from Sir John Laws, then Treasury counsel.

## KENNETH CLARKE

Charge: As Home Secretary signed two certificates to suppress MIS documents, claiming their disclosure could "prejudice national security".

## MALCOLM RIFKIND

Charge: As Defence Secretary signed one public interest immunity certificate before the Matrix Churchill trial, saying that to release papers to the court would be "injurious to the public interest".

## PETER LILLEY

Charge: As Trade Secretary signed certificates to withhold papers from the Matrix Churchill defence. Also signed certificates

in the separate but similar Ordite trial.

Defence: Expressed reservations, particularly when he learnt that one of the Matrix Churchill defendants was an M16 informant, but signed on the advice of the Attorney-General.

## MICHAEL HESLITINE

Charge: Signed PII certificate designed to suppress Department of Trade and Industry documents in Matrix Churchill case.

## BARONESS THATCHER

Charge: Signed letters to MPs saying that guidelines on exports to Iraq had not changed. Gave similar parliamentary answer.

## LORD HOWE

Charge: Signed misleading let-

ters denying any change in the policy on arms exports to Iraq which he had established as Foreign Secretary in 1984.

## ALAN CLARK

Charge: As Defence Minister he and Mr Waldegrave secretly changed wording of guidelines on exports to Iraq. Agreed not to inform Parliament. Encouraged Matrix Churchill executives to circumvent export guidelines.

## SIR ROBIN BUTLER

Charge: Involved in Whitehall meetings on Matrix Churchill case and was aware that Government had given a "nod and a wink". Supported withholding documents from defence. Did nothing to stop the case.

Leading article, page 19



Sir Richard Scott, a keen cyclist, arriving at his London office yesterday

## Backbench MPs unite against Speaker's critics

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

SENIOR backbenchers from both main parties are angry at what they see as an attempt by some Tory MPs to put pressure on the Commons Speaker, Betty Boothroyd.

Friends of Miss Boothroyd have voiced irritation at a renewed whispering campaign against her over her decision last week to back Opposition demands to see the Scott report before it is published. Reports apparently inspired by Tory MPs have even hinted that she cannot count on being elected unopposed at the start of the next Parliament.

The reports have suggested that Miss Boothroyd has become increasingly political in her decisions, a charge rejected by her supporters, who say that she always acts in the interests of the House and not of any particular party.

The Speaker is known to be distressed by the campaign but has told close colleagues that she has no intention of buckling in the face of what appears to be an attempt to intimidate her.

One said: "This is a strong woman and one of the most popular in the country. If

some pipsqueak in Tory Central Office believes he can put the frighteners on Betty, he must be in dreamland. The inference seems to be that unless she does what they want she won't become Speaker again. It's laughable and counter-productive."

Senior ministers are believed to have assured Miss Boothroyd that the Government is not associated with the private attacks on her. She was elected as Speaker after the 1992 election with the backing of many Tory MPs, who felt it was time for a Labour Speaker.

If Labour wins the general election her position is assured. Most MPs believe that she would also continue if the Tories won again.

Miss Boothroyd is primarily the guardian of all MPs' rights. At different times during the present Parliament she has been criticised privately by both Labour and the Tories for leaning against them in some of her judgments.

A close colleague said: "If she is getting flak from both sides she must be getting it right."

## Activists are told of Harman's dismay

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HARRIET HARMAN has written to her constituents expressing "dismay" about the problems she caused the Labour Party by sending her son to a selective grammar school.

This evening the issue is expected to be raised at a meeting of her local party's general management committee in Rocham. But Ms Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, is unlikely to face any formal censure motion. The bulk of the party is expected to support her.

She insists in her letter that

she fully supports Labour's education policy and does not favour a return to the 11 plus examination. She justified her decision to send her son to St Olave's in Orpington, Kent, by insisting that it was the "right choice for our son in the system it now is after 16 years of Tory attacks on education."

"I am, of course, dismayed at the problems that have faced the Labour Party as a result," she says. "I hope that the party will now re-affirm support for our education policies."

## IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons, backbench debates followed by trade and industry questions and debates on Social Security Bill, remaining stages: Local Government Reorganisation (Compensation for Loss of Representation) Regulations and Bill with Harman - A11 (Debt) Bill, committee; Broadcasting Bill, committee; British Motor Corporation Bill, second reading; and debate on criminal offences committed under influence of alcohol.

Home Office ministers and the Prime Minister, sitting, suspended between 12.30 and 1.30pm before a statement on the Scott report. Debates on the agreement between the National Heritage Secretary and the BBC; and Housing in Plymouth; in the Lords: Human Rights Bill, committee; Broadcasting Bill, committee; British Motor Corporation Bill, second reading; and debate on criminal offences committed under influence of alcohol.

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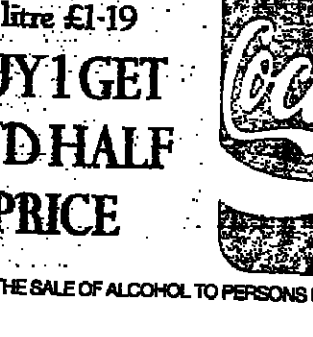
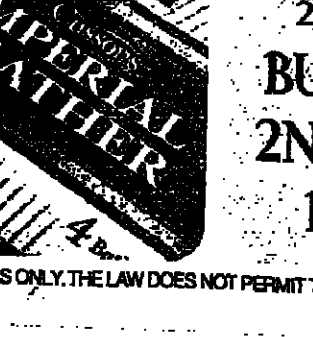
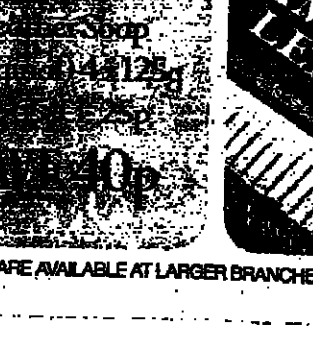
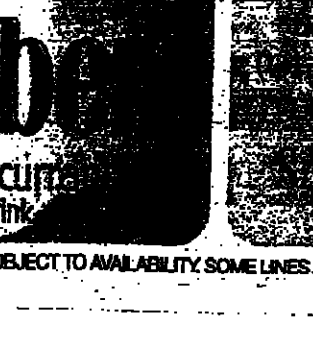
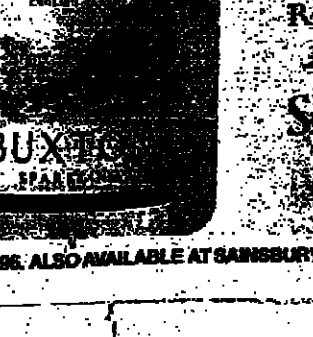
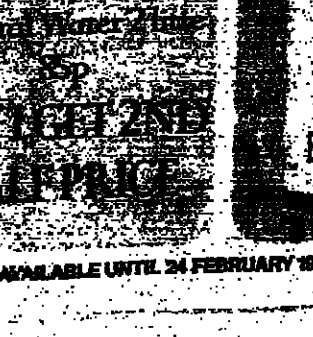
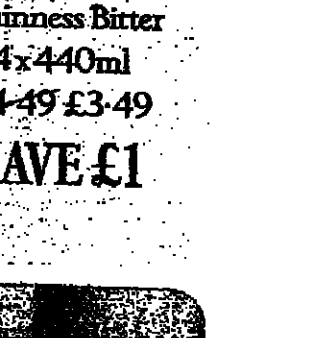
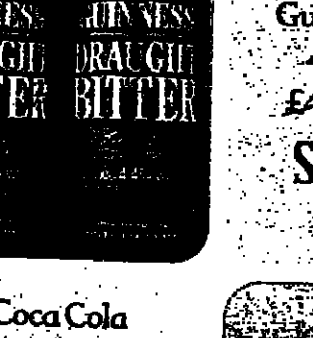
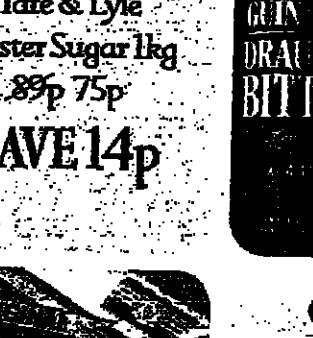
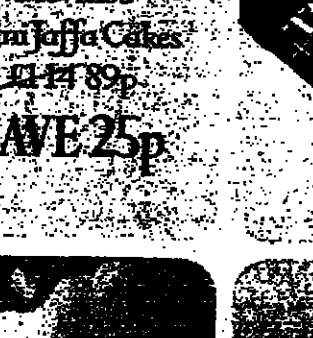
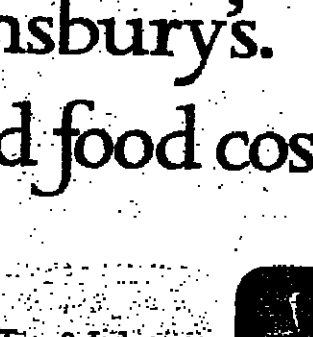
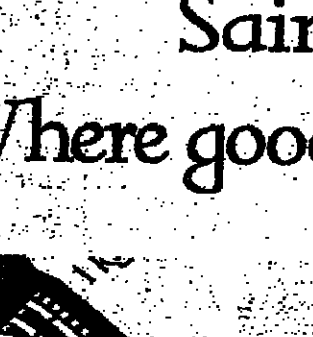
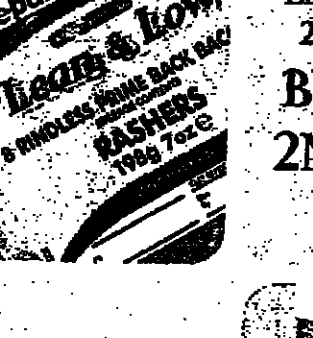
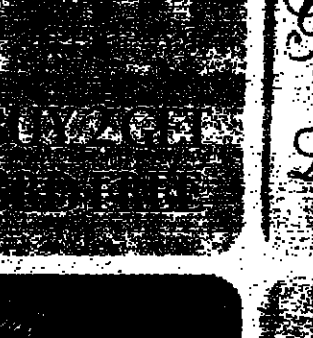
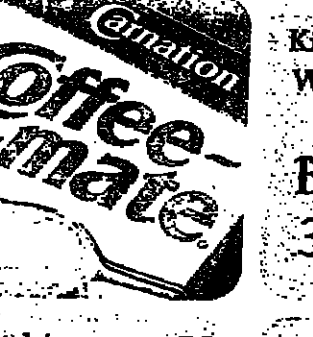
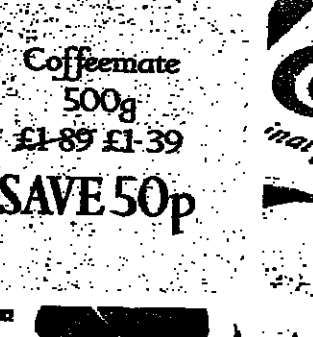
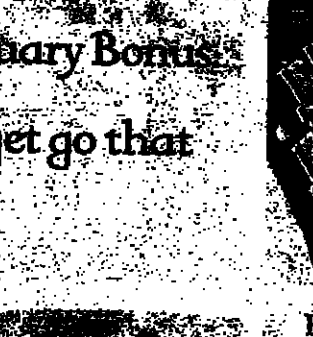
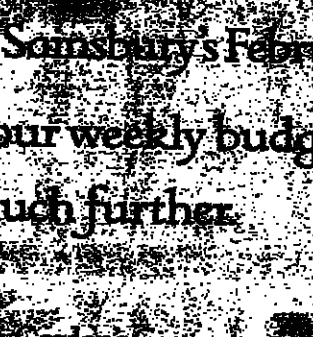
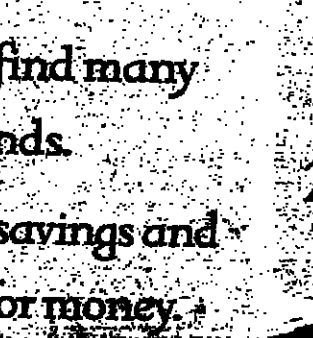
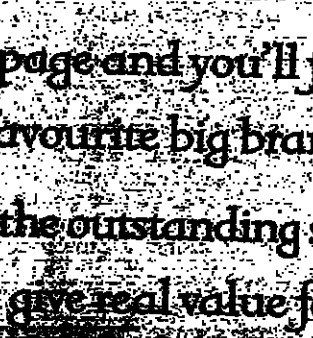
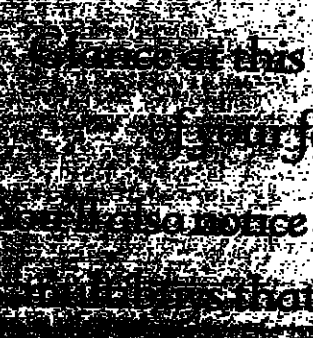
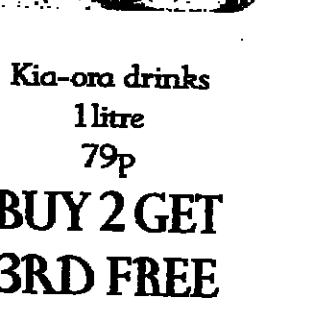
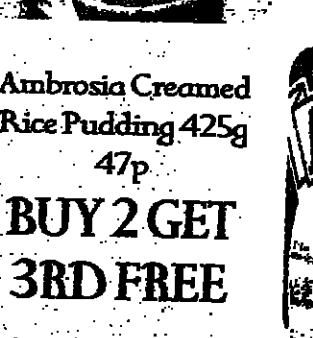
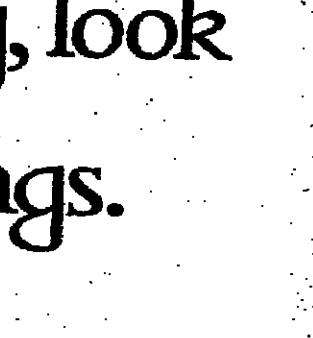
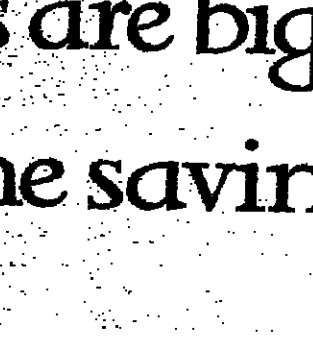
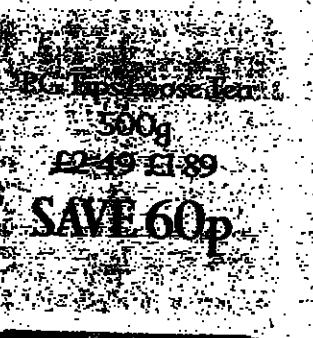
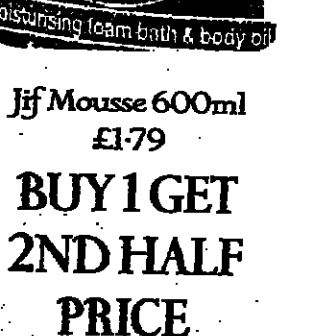
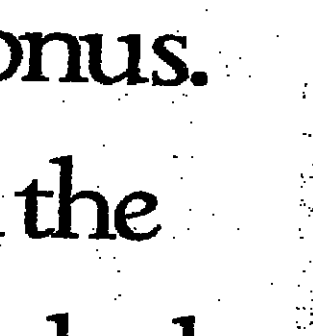
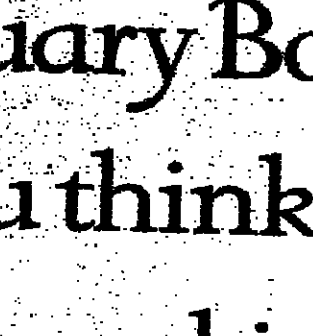
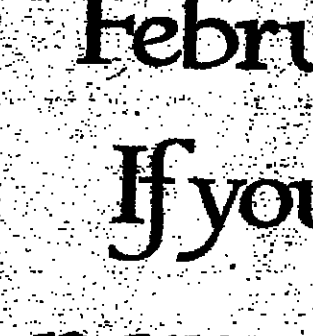
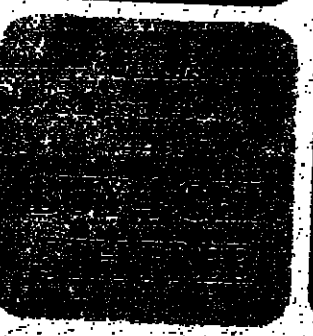
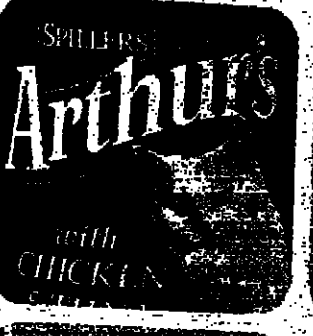
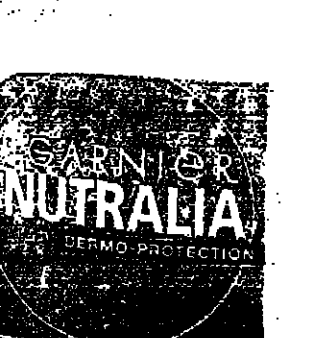
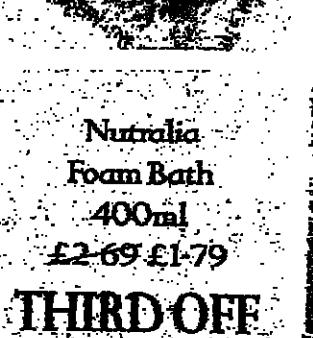
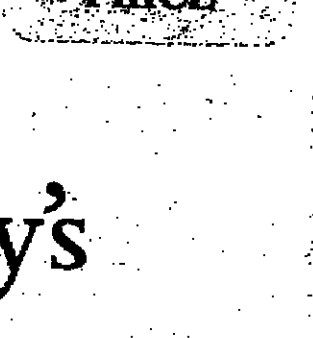
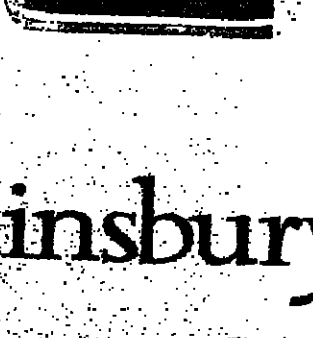
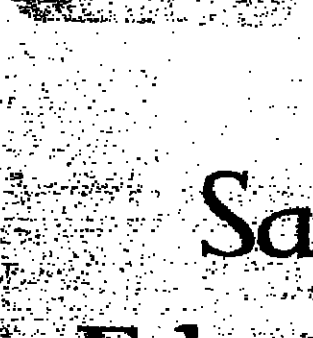
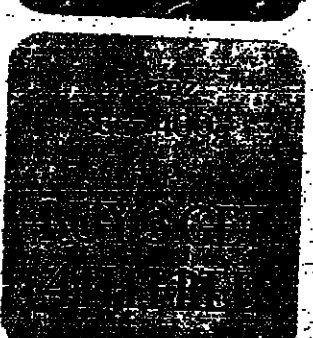
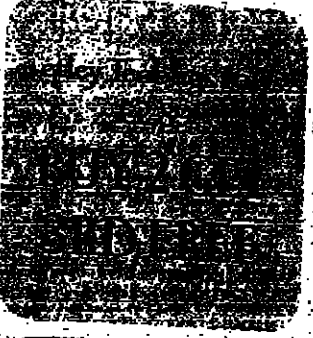
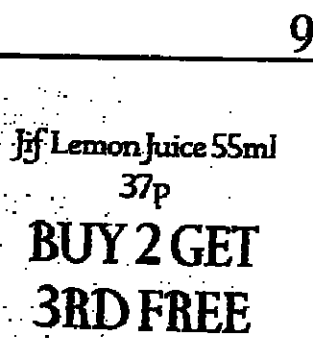
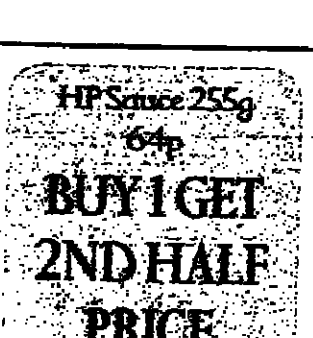
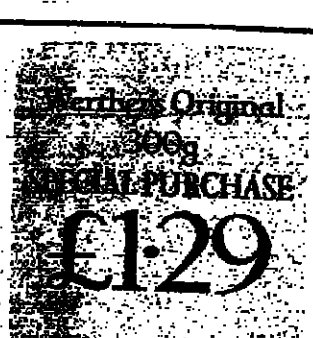
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Inefficient Japanese breeders create market where thieves find rich pickings from pork

# Pig farmers fight to save their bacon from rustler gangs

By MICHAEL HORNSBY  
AGRICULTURE  
CORRESPONDENT

A EUROPE-WIDE shortage of pork and bacon, partly caused by a surge in exports to Japan, has led to pig rustling on a grand scale, farmers and police said yesterday.

Inefficient Japanese farmers have been going out of business, forcing Japan to turn to Denmark, Europe's biggest exporter, for supplies. This has affected prices and supplies here, as the meat trade relies on Denmark to make up any shortfall.

The shortage has exacerbated the effects of a decline in the size of pig herds, sending prices soaring and creating a tempting target for well-equipped thieves.

Sergeant Nigel Webster, of North Yorkshire police and himself a pig breeder, said: "It is big business. These thefts have coincided with a huge rise in the market value of piglets. The prices have risen down for quite a while but have risen steadily during the past six months."

"We are no nearer to catching the villains. It has got to be somebody with insider know-



Pork sales have held up despite the Babe effect

ledge. Thousands of pigs go through market every day and it is impossible to catch the stolen ones."

Harry Albright, East Midlands representative of the National Farmers' Union, said: "There is no doubt we are dealing with professional rustlers. We are telling our members to step up security patrols at night and to look out for suspicious lorries."

The rustlers target piglets no more than four weeks old because they are easier to cart away than adult pigs. Even at

that age the animals are worth £30 to £40 a head, a value that will treble in a few weeks after fattening.

Fears that the success of the film *Babe*, about a talking pig, would lead to a slump in pork consumption have proved groundless, according to the Meat and Livestock Commission. "We have certainly seen no slackening in demand and reports to that effect from the United States appear to have been greatly hyped," Mr Sinclair said. Britons eat 21kg of pork and bacon a head a year, more than any other kind of meat except chicken.

Unlike cattle and sheep, which are marked with ear tags and tattoos, most pigs carry no identification, making it impossible for the police or for farmers to recognise stolen goods, even if they can be traced.

Richard Longthorp, of Howden, Humberside, lost 262 premium piglets worth about £10,500 last Saturday night from a field he rents near Redford in Nottinghamshire. "It must have taken four or five men using a four-wheel-drive vehicle and trailer to remove my piglets," he said. "A one-ton bale of hay had to



John Sleightholme, who has had 163 piglets worth £5,000 stolen: "The thieves knew what they were after"

be moved to make a gap in the fence and it would have taken the gang more than an hour to carry out their work."

Mr Longthorp, who keeps 900 breeding sows producing 20,000 pigs a year, has lost about 80 other piglets during the past six months, stolen in batches of four or five at a time. He is now considering marking his stock and installing closed-circuit television

and burglar alarms. Police think the thieves are probably in league with a rogue farmer who fattens the stolen pigs before selling them. This view is shared by John Sleightholme, of Hummanby, North Yorkshire, who lost 163 piglets worth £5,000 in a raid ten days ago.

"The thieves knew what they were after because they chose the youngest, quietest

and least troublesome animals," he said. "They must have some knowledge of pig-keeping because animals this young would die unless properly cared for. That makes me think another farmer is involved."

More and more farmers are now rearing pigs out of doors, often in remote fields, because of tougher animal welfare controls on the most intensive

indoor systems. This has made pig farms more vulnerable to theft.

Pig-rearing, one of the few sectors of European agriculture that gets no public subsidy, is notorious for its ups and downs. Three years ago pigs were fetching no more than 90 pence a kilogram deadweight, less than the cost of production, but prices are now averaging 136p a kg.

## Mawhinney wants day in court

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, is to give evidence in court against five people accused of throwing paint at him in a protest over the Asylum Bill. Conservative Central Office said that Dr Mawhinney, his wife Betty and his parliamentary aide, Alan Duncan, wanted to appear as prosecution witnesses when the case is heard on February 28. The accused, all from London, were remanded on unconditional bail by Bow Street magistrates yesterday.

## Captain charged

The captain of the world's oldest square-rigged sailing ship has been charged with manslaughter. Mark Litchfield, 55, of Bodley, Kent, is accused over the deaths of three crew members on the *Marie Assumpta*, which sank last May off Padstow, Cornwall.

## Care home claim

An Irishwoman living in Camden, north London, is seeking a legal ruling that Camden council is obliged under European law to pay for her to go into a nursing home in Ireland. Eileen Kennedy, 63, from Tipperary, is paralysed after a stroke. She came to England in 1954.

## Death wish

John Scrapps, 36, of Leichworth, Hertfordshire, who is awaiting execution in Singapore for murdering and dismembering a South African tourist, is eager to die and has said told his lawyer that he does not want to appeal for clemency, the British High Commission said.

## Renovation aid

Osterley Park in west London, one of a handful of great country houses in the capital, is to be restored by the National Trust with the aid of an £825,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The house was built by Sir Thomas Gresham and transformed by Robert Adam.

## Fair owner fined over death

By A STAFF REPORTER

A FAIRGROUND proprietor was fined £7,500 yesterday over the death of a nine-year-old boy on one of his rides. Pat Evans, of Coney Beach Amusement Park at Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan, had admitted failing to carry out proper repair work to the water chute. He was also ordered to pay costs of £3,500.

Cardiff Crown Court was told that Timothy Morgan, from Cardiff, was one of several passengers struck by an overhead lighting gantry which fell into the path of the

car in which he was riding as he came down the chute in April 1994. He was thrown 10ft on to a tin roof.

Mr Justice Curtis said his powers of sentence were limited to a fine because of legislation under the Health and Safety at Work Act. A manslaughter charge had been considered and rejected by the prosecuting authority.

"Some might think that, as there has been a death, a more severe penalty should be imposed. But my powers are confined under this Act to a fine," he said, adding: "The fine cannot and does not bear any

relation at all to the value of the life lost or injuries inflicted for the reasons I have explained."

After the case Timothy's father, Christopher Morgan, 47, an insurance agent who was on the ride with his older son David, 17, criticised the sentence as too lenient. He said the family had expected a substantial penalty. "It was too low and we are extremely disappointed."

Nicholas Pounder, solicitor for Evans, 75, read a statement from the fairground owner expressing his "heartfelt and genuine condolences" to Timothy's family.

## Spiked drink pupil recovers

By PAUL WILKINSON

JAMES FOUNTAIN, the public schoolboy who went on a ten-day "trip" after his lemonade was spiked with drugs at a dance party, is showing signs of recovery. His improvement came as police said they had a new lead in the hunt for whoever adulterated his drink.

Doctors at first feared that James, 16, from Hartlepool, had suffered permanent mental damage but he is now said to be improving in a psychiatric unit at St Luke's Hospital in Middlesbrough. However

there are no plans yet to allow him home.

For more than a week after the party, James, a fifth-former at Yarm School, near Stockton-on-Tees, was semi-conscious, could not recognise his parents Christopher and Barbara, and was unable to hold a conversation of more than a few words. Yesterday doctors said that he was speaking more clearly to his parents and for longer periods. He has also been walking about the ward he shares with other teenagers being treated for mental problems. Nigel Charlesworth, St Luke's

spokesman, said: "He is improving, but remains unwell. He is not in a critical condition but psychiatrists are still concerned about his mental state and they are unsure if he will suffer any long-term damage."

James fell ill at the party at the Hardwick Hall Hotel in Sedgfield, Co Durham, on February 3, which he attended with about 30 friends from his all-boys school. Police believe his soft drink had been laced with an unknown drug either as a cruel joke or in revenge for his efforts to dissuade his friends from taking drugs on offer at the dance.

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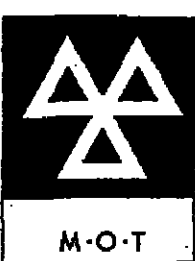
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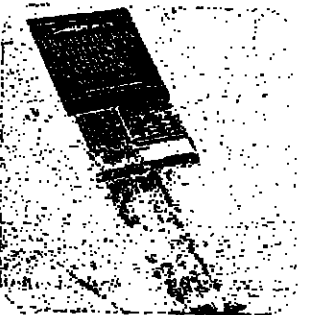
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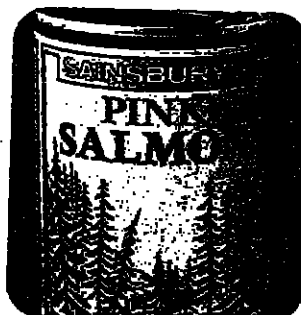
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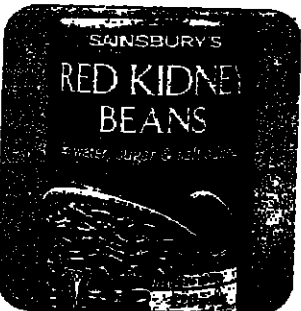


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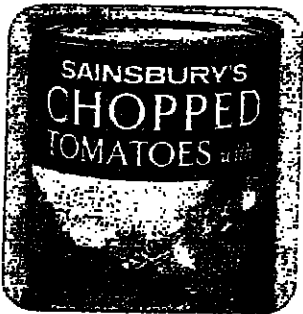
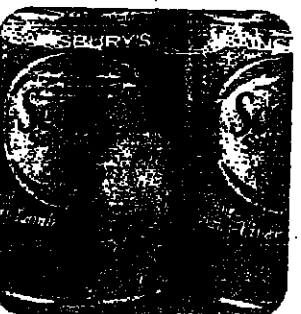
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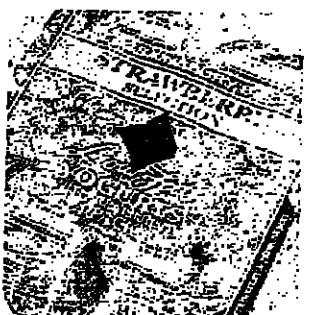
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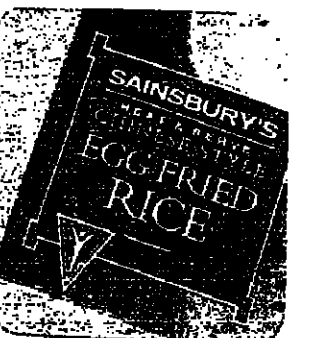
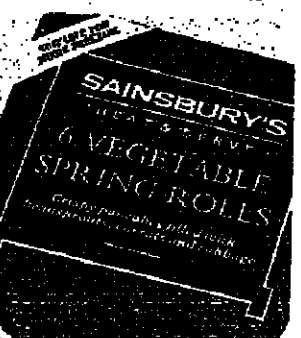
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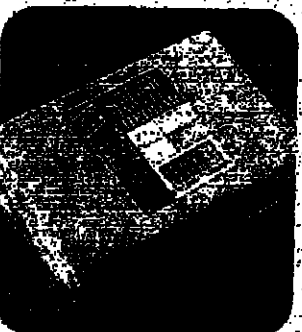
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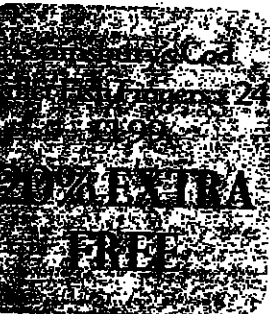
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## Fatalistic Dole limps towards crucial primary

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

ROBERT DOLE'S address to New Hampshire's state legislature was that of a man facing his worst nightmare.

Sounding tired and fatalistic, the septuagenarian senator made no mention of his hollow victory in Monday's Iowa caucuses. Instead he repeatedly invoked 1988, when he handsomely won Iowa only to see his presidential ambitions shattered when New Hampshire rejected him for George Bush. "Something happened I didn't really like," he recalled. "I slept like a baby — I woke up every two hours and I cried."

Mr Dole is so tantalisingly close to securing the Republican nomination in the third and final bid of a 45-year political career. It will assuredly be his if this enfeebled frontrunner can cling on to win next Tuesday's make-or-break New Hampshire primary, but the next six days will be among the longest and most testing of his life.

Iowa is the state that traditionally winnows the presidential field, but New Hampshire is the one that anoints the winner. It is now the snowy centre of America's political universe, and with Mr Dole's seeming lock on the state having been so grievously loosened in recent days it promises one of the most fluid and unpredictable contests in its history.

Mr Dole had hoped to gain unstoppable momentum from a thumping victory in Iowa. He had expected his principal

New Hampshire opponents to be Steve Forbes, the publishing tycoon, and Phil Gramm, the Texas senator. Instead he limped eastwards from Iowa, his fellow Mid-Westerners having given him the most tepid of endorsements, and finds himself squeezed from left and right by the suddenly surging candidacies of Lamar Alexander and Pat Buchanan.

To an extraordinary extent Mr Forbes, who led New Hampshire's polls before his dismal Iowa performance, seems now to have been written off and he cancelled all appearances on Tuesday to reassess his strategy.

Mr Buchanan is so pumped up by his strong second place in Iowa that aides say he cannot sleep. He and his passionate "Buchanan brigades" are storming round the state where he captured 37 per cent of the vote against President Bush four years ago, and the outrageously-outspoken Manchester Union Leader, New Hampshire's only statewide newspaper, is roaring him on.

Mr Dole is moving to blunt Mr Buchanan's appeal by criticising corporate greed, the United Nations and the "liberal education establishment", but risks a wholesale defection of more centrist voters to Mr Alexander. The former Tennessee governor is a slick but attractive operator who is cleverly positioning himself as a moderate with a radical message, the "safe" outsider, and the Republican most capable of defeating Mr Clinton.

an important state, you would have to be brain dead not to take a look at where you are and what you're doing."

The previous evening had been spent telling supporters that he was no longer a viable candidate. He now joins two earlier but less established victims of the presidential election process, Arlen Specter, the Pennsylvania senator, and Pete Wilson, the Governor of California.

The mantle of true conservatism has passed to Pat Buchanan, the radical commentator who had eclipsed the Texas in Alaska, Louisiana and most prominently in Iowa this week.

## Gramm quits race

Washington: The Republican race for the American presidency claimed its first real casualty yesterday when Phil Gramm, the beleaguered Texas senator, abandoned his once promising quest for the White House (Tom Rhodes writes).

Mr Gramm, whose relentless drive and strong organisation had made him an early favourite for 1996, had been unable to find a powerful constituency among the electorate and announced his decision in Washington. "When the voters speak, I listen," he said. Before leaving New Hampshire, he said: "When you run fifth in Iowa,



A jubilant Joan Collins heads for a night of champagne celebrations after her \$3-million triumph in New York

## Collins win 'will rewrite book deals'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

JOAN COLLINS was "still on a high" in her New York hotel yesterday morning after her court victory over her publisher, Random House.

At Random House there were similarly foggy heads — not from celebrating the outcome of the \$4 million case, but from the woe of the bottom line of a complicated court result was that Miss Collins, sued by Random House for failing to deliver satisfactory manuscripts for two novels, will see \$3 million worth of her original \$4 million contract. She left the court with a fist raised in

triumph, said she was "thrilled" and headed for a night of champagne. Judy Bryer, her assistant, said yesterday morning: "We are still wrapped up in the excitement of everything. It was so wonderful."

New York publishing sources suggested that it may take longer for Random House and Alberto Vitale, its bombastic chairman, to recover. The court heard that a "star-struck" Mr Vitale played a significant part in the valuable contract.

Her late agent, Irving "Swifty" Lazar, extracted not only big money but also

unusually accommodating conditions for his client, Random House effectively signed away its rights to complain about the quality of her manuscript.

Mr Vitale was originally due to give evidence in the New York Supreme Court case, and was so horrified by the prospect that he secured an agreement that his face would not be shown clearly on the court television that broadcast the case live every day. It would instead be obscured by a "blue dot", a demand which drew derision from New York commentators. If Mr Vitale's reputation has taken a batter-

ing, the same is true of the general name of celebrity authors — people who allow their names to appear on a book of which they have sometimes written only a fraction.

Publishing sources speculate that the case will make publishers more wary about paying vast sums to inexperienced writers. It may also, however, encourage publishers to treat authors better.

Miss Collins said that she hopes "Hell Hath No Fury", one of the manuscripts rejected by Random House, will now be issued by a different publisher.

## Colombo navy sinks rebel ship

Colombo: Sri Lankan Air Force aircraft and Navy gunboats destroyed a rebel ship off the northeastern coast yesterday and a huge explosion rocked a tourist resort north of Colombo, military officials and police said.

Security was tightened in the capital with the Government ordering all schools closed until further notice because of fears of attacks by Tamil Tiger guerrillas. The military could not pinpoint the site of the explosion near the resort. The ship sunk was believed to be carrying arms for the Tigers. (Reuters)

## Trapped skiers are rescued

Grenoble: Eight German skiers, two of them suffering from frostbite, were rescued after being trapped for two days in a makeshift igloo in the French Alps. Members of the group said they had to beat one woman to keep her awake on the remote mountainside, fearing she would freeze to death if she slept. The five men and three women were cut off in a blizzard near the Madeleine pass. (Reuters)

## Aid focus on Asia and Africa

London: Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Minister, said she was disappointed by cuts to Britain's aid programme and hoped her budget would be restored (Eve-Anne Prentice writes). She told the Royal Institute of International Affairs the Government would give more aid to the poorer countries of Africa and Asia.

## Tunnel boulder blasted away

Tokyo: Rescue workers managed to demolish a 50,000-tonne boulder, which crushed a road tunnel in northern Japan at the weekend, trapping 20 people inside. A rescue mission is expected to be launched into the tunnel today. The blasting of the boulder was televised live. (Reuters)

## US medical endorsement smooths the way for wrinkle cream profits

BY QUENTIN LETTS

WRINKLE treatments have crossed the American pharmacy floor, from cosmetics to the chemist's counter. After an unprecedented Food and Drug Administration (FDA) endorsement, an anti-ageing cream is being dispensed on prescription.

Renova, a cream which is said to reduce facial lines, was given the

FDA approval a month ago and has just gone on sale to brick trade. Skin lotions and ointments have previously been the preserve of beauty departments, but the Renova breakthrough heralds a more medical image for such applications.

The FDA endorsement was cautious. It approved Renova only for light-skinned people under the age of 50, and demanded that packets

carry the statement that the cream "does not eliminate" wrinkles or repair sun-damaged skin. However, it could reduce fine facial lines and the "appearance" of wrinkles.

Renova, which costs \$60 (£39) for a six-month supply, includes Retin-A, which is also used for teenage spots. During tests some people complained that Renova dried out the skin, sometimes causing irritation and burning. "Patients" are

told to place six "pea-sized" drops across the face once a day and then rub it in evenly. Larger doses make no difference. Nor would Renova have helped extreme cases such as W.H. Auden. Deep-gorge wrinkles are beyond its capabilities, and Renova is not a preventative.

Johnson & Johnson, the maker of the cream, expects first-year sales of \$175 million and is marketing the cream in a sober manner. Manufact-

urers have long indulged in a tyranny of techno-speak, punting dubious scientific names and vitamin strains, but the FDA endorsement of Renova has taken matters a step further. Photosensitisers such as thiazides, sulfonamides and fluoroquinolones are now the talk of Manhattan salad bars. You can barely move for talk of "reduced mottled hyperpigmentation" and the pore-pumping wonders of

Renova's active ingredient, tretinoin. Modern America views wrinkles with the sort of horror medieval Londoners would treat the first cough-up spot of blood on a handkerchief. Anti-ageing expert Julia Busch, author of *Treat Your Face Like A Salad* said yesterday: "We are... a youth-orientated society where jobs and relationships depend on age. People are going to rush out and buy Renova."

### ADVERTISEMENT

## Telephone mortgage experts help homeowners exploit rate cuts

BY STEVEN DEPUT

WITH INTEREST rates at their lowest point for a generation and expectations of further falls in the months to come, there has never been a better time to arrange a cheap mortgage.

Lenders are falling over themselves to win over potential borrowers, offering tempting deals both to home buyers and those who want to re-mortgage. Making the right choice could easily save you hundreds, or even thousands of pounds a year.

The rapid expansion of mortgage lending over the telephone in the past year is part of the same financial revolution that has brought cheap insurance and 24-hour banking to millions of homes. Today, the right mortgage choice can be just a call away.

Not surprisingly, a number of High Street lenders now claim to offer the same service to their customers. But as with most claims, some promise more than they deliver. Often, the mortgage you are offered is no cheaper than you would get by queuing in a branch. Some lenders will not complete the deal until you go in to see them.

FirstMortgage does not operate under the same old branch-based system as most other lenders. This allows it to cut overheads, passing on the savings to its customers in the form of cheaper loans. Form-filling is taken care of by FirstMortgage, saving you time and cutting out endless frustration.

All it takes to arrange that mortgage is a free call on 0800 0800 88, typically lasting no more than 15 minutes, to a consultant at the company's central offices.

FirstMortgage consultants are on hand to answer your questions about the best kind of mortgage to pick in today's climate. Because everyone has special needs, they are also there to advise on the best options to suit your individual circumstances.

Any questions you may have about the suitability of a particular loan are answered in a clear, jargon-free manner. Unlike other lenders who may also try to sell you a whole package of

financial products, home loans are the only business for FirstMortgage.

Callers are asked the usual questions about their property, any existing loan and personal circumstances.

An application form is filled in by the consultant and the mortgage can be agreed in principle by FirstMortgage at the end of the call, subject to normal conditions. If you agree, the form is immediately printed out with all your details and sent to you. All you then have to do is sign and return it.

FirstMortgage has loans to suit all individual circumstances. Where it can't find the right product for you from its own range, the company can provide market-beating offers from other lenders to ensure you get the best deal possible.

For example, many experts now believe it is highly likely that mortgage interest rates will fall even further in the next few months. This belief is fuelled by a combination of factors, including the Chancellor's anticipated decision to lower base rates further, the continuing mortgage price war, plus the decision by some building societies to offer "loyalty" bonuses to their existing members.

You can gain from this by choosing a discounted mortgage, where the interest you pay is pegged several points below the prevailing rate.

That way, if interest rates fall, so does the cost of your loan. FirstMortgage now has a deal available that cuts up to 3.25 per cent off the existing average variable rate of 7.49 per cent for two years. It then moves back to the variable rate, which is guaranteed for five years to reflect the average rate offered by the top five building societies. Whatever happens, you don't lose out. Discounts of up to 2.25 per cent are on offer over a three-year period.

For those who prefer the security of knowing exactly how much their outgoings will be over several years, FirstMortgage has a competitive range of two, three and five-year



It's all handled by telephone

fixed rate options.

Both FirstMortgage's fixed and discounted mortgages are available without the usual set-up fees, in which case a slightly higher interest rate applies.

Whatever your needs, the chances are there is a FirstMortgage loan which can be tailored to meet them. Trained consultants are on hand between 8.00am and 7.00pm, Monday to Friday, to answer any queries.

As with all mortgage lending, loans are secured on your property and are subject to status. A suitable life insurance policy is also required.

The APR is based on a typical example of a repayment loan of £25,000 for a house purchase of £80,000.

The loan term is 25 years with a discounted variable rate of interest of 4.24 per cent per annum for the first

two years and thereafter at the equivalent variable rate (assumed to be 4.24 per cent p.a.).

The loan will be repaid after 300 monthly payments of £246.17 (£237.94 net of MARS on £80,000 at 15 per cent).

The total amount payable is £74,346, including legal fees of £250, an arrangement fee of £275, a valuation fee of £140 and a money transfer fee of £45, all of which are inclusive of VAT.

Before calling FirstMortgage for your free quote, consider the following: Do you have at least 10 per cent equity or deposit? Do you have a clean credit history with no mortgage arrears? Do you want to save time by arranging your loan over the phone? Do you want a mortgage that will save you money?

If the answer is yes to all the above then phone 0800 0800 88.

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Call free now to arrange your mortgage direct

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For a written quotation, write to FirstMortgage, Brentford House, 14-15 Lancaster Place, London, WC2E 7EP. You can also reach them on the internet at <http://www.firstmortgage.co.uk/mr/>. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOANS SECURED ON IT.

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longer, there.  
Now give me  
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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15 1996



Boning up: David Hudd, left, chairman of Vardon, and Nick Irens, chief executive, at the London Dungeon before reporting that a hot summer and the National Lottery restricted growth of profits by the company, which owns the London Dungeon and Sea Life Centres. Organic growth and acquisitions helped pre-tax profits to rise by 24 per cent, to £9.14 million, in the year to December 31. New openings helped attendance at the 22 Sea Life Centres to rise by 14 per cent, to 4.4 million, but like-for-like visits fell by 7 per cent. The Ritz Clubs bingo operation felt the impact of the National Lottery and scratchcards. New openings, making 17 bingo clubs, helped turnover to grow by 53 per cent. Vardon has bought the Warnwell Leisure Resort, in Dorset, for £6.1 million. An improved final dividend of 1.25p (1.125p), due on May 3, gives an increased total of 1.65p (1.5p). Tempus, page 26

## Double boost for Chancellor on jobless and pay rates

By Philip Bassett and Janet Bush

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, was yesterday presented with a golden economic scenario of low inflation and falling unemployment. The earnings figures, described as astonishingly good by some City analysts, served to underline the new optimism in the Bank of England on inflation prospects. Largely because the slowdown in economic growth has been more marked than the Bank had expected, it is now predicting that the Government is a little more likely than not to achieve sub-2.5 per cent inflation in two years' time. In its November *Inflation Report*, the Bank forecast that the target would be overshoot.

The number of people out of work and claiming benefit dropped by a larger than expected 29,500 in January to 2,205,800. The fall was the largest since December 1994, when the total fell by 51,800, and takes the level to its lowest since April 1991. The unemployment rate fell to 7.9 per cent - below 8 per cent for the first time since May 1991.

Both the unemployment level and its rate are now at their lowest for almost five years. Unemployment is now 712,700 lower than at its peak in December 1992, and the drop marks the twenty-ninth consecutive monthly fall.

At the same time, the Central Statistical Office reported that annual average earnings growth in December remained at 3.25 per cent, the same rate for the past six months. The only cloud in the labour market figures was news that productivity fell for the second month running.

The earnings figures, described as astonishingly good by some City analysts, served to underline the new optimism in the Bank of England on inflation prospects. Largely because the slowdown in economic growth has been more marked than the Bank had expected, it is now predicting that the Government is a little more likely than not to achieve sub-2.5 per cent inflation in two years' time. In its November *Inflation Report*, the Bank forecast that the target would be overshoot.

Mervyn King, director of economics at the Bank, said that the two 0.25 per cent cuts in interest rates in December and January had evidently not put the inflation target at risk. Going forward, he said that the risks to the inflation forecast were evenly balanced.

Significant downward revisions to growth in the world economy cannot be ruled out and this would mean an even lower British inflation rate. On the other hand, domestic consumer spending may accelerate later this year, helped by one-off gains from building society mergers and utility rebates, and this could risk higher inflation than forecast.

The Bank appeared to be relaxed about the prospect for earnings growth despite yesterday's news of a large decline in unemployment.

City forecasters were again proved wrong by the fall, which was six times bigger than the average of their predictions. Unadjusted unemployment actually rose in January by 82,299 to 2,310,483, largely because of seasonal job shedding in areas like retail and construction, but a large seasonal adjustment factor in January took it to an adjusted fall of 29,500.

Whitehall officials now believe that the average rate of monthly decline in unemployment is towards the top end of a 10-15,000 range.

New figures for people out of work for longer than a year showed 816,000 in January, down by 9,700 on the quarter. However, the number unemployed for longer than six months rose on the quarter by 10,000 to 1.2 million.

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3745.0	(-2.6)
Yield	3.86%	
FT-SE All share	1841.04	(-0.61)
Nikkei	20943.58	(+158.38)
New York	5573.05	(-26.13)
Dow Jones	656.69	(-3.82)
S&P Composite		
US RATE		
Federal Funds	6.5%	(4.5%)
Long Bond	99 1/8	(92 1/8)
Yield	6.05%	(6.03%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6 1/2%	(6 1/2%)
Libor 3m	108 1/2	(109 1/2)
STERLING		
New York	1.5373	(1.5372)
London	1.5375	(1.5343)
DM	1.2558	(1.2538)
FF	7.7770	(7.8050)
SP	1.8415	(1.8520)
Yen	164.13	(164.05)
S Index	86.2	(86.2)
DOLLAR		
London	1.4672	(1.4735)
DM	5.0590	(5.0715)
FF	1.1977	(1.2033)
Yen	106.75	(106.78)
S Index	86.2	(86.2)
Tokyo close Yen	106.75	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$17.10	(\$17.15)
GOLD		
London close	\$402.45	(\$401.55)
* denotes midday trading price		

### Unilever to buy hair care group for £488m

By Christine Buckley

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch foods and household goods group that last week announced a restructuring operation across its divisions which would cost £225 million, is to spend £488 million on the acquisition of Helene Curtis, the hair care group.

The company, whose shares slipped after Procter & Gamble revealed an aggressive price-cutting campaign in household products to fend off own-label rivals, said the purchase would be an important boost to its personal care division which accounts for 15 per cent of Unilever's sales.

Acquisition of Helene Curtis, which produces Salon Selectives and Finisse, takes Unilever to number two in the worldwide hair care stakes after L'Oréal and also gives it exposure to North America where the company is currently poorly represented in that division. Robert Phillips, the director responsible for personal products, said: "Helene Curtis has strong brands in the North America hair care and deodorant markets and this acquisition will improve our position which has been underrepresented in comparison with our international presence."

The purchase will be earnings dilutive in the short term, but Unilever says the building of critical mass will justify the dilution. The group has already this month bought the Irish arm of Lyons Tea for £78 million. Last month, it paid £360 million for a Canadian detergent producer.

Tempus, page 26

## Late-payers 'keep small firms waiting 77 days'

By Ross Terman and James Landale

DEMANDS for a law obliging companies to pay interest on overdue debts were given fresh impetus after a survey suggested small firms are owed £128 billion by their customers.

A Private Member's Bill was introduced in the Commons yesterday by Jon Owen Jones, Labour MP for Cardiff Central, calling for a statutory right to interest on late payments. To coincide with its publication, the Forum of Private Business said a survey of 2,858 members showed an average 77-day wait for payment of bills that should have been settled in a month.

Typically, firms surveyed were owed more than £120,000 by other businesses and customers, but owed their suppliers less than £60,000. If the figures were multiplied across Britain's one million small firms, companies would be owed £128 billion, while they owed little more than half as much, £63 billion, to their suppliers.

A second survey, by NOP for Business Pages, found 70 per cent of small businesses identified late payment as a serious problem - and 54 per cent blamed larger companies. The remark by Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, that he was "skilful at stringing along creditors" has lifted the late payment issue high on the political agenda. Urging support for Mr Jones' Bill, Stan Mendham, Forum chief executive, said there was now clear evidence that a statutory right to interest would benefit small firms.

And he attacked Mr Heseltine for his remark which, he said, "sends out the message that it is acceptable to use suppliers' money to finance a business at their risk". The Government has already signalled it may abandon its long-standing reluctance to legislate on the problem. In a parliamentary written answer on January 11, Richard Page, the Small Business Minister, said he had "decided to look again at the arguments for and against statutory interest". A review has been launched, with the findings to be published in the summer.

Responding to Opposition attacks yesterday, ministers said yesterday that Government departments were paying more of their bills on time and the late-payment situation was getting better. Mr Page said that the Department of Trade and Industry paid 93 per cent of its bills within 30 days. "The Government recognises the problems late payment of invoices can cause, particularly for small businesses. It is important that the public sector leads by example by settling its bills on time."

He said that Angela Knight, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, who is responsible for Whitehall payment policies, had instructed all departments to abide by the CBI prompt payments code and to publicise their payment policies.

The CBI code sets no time targets, but says companies should agree payment terms and dates when drawing up contracts, and stick to them. But Mr Page insisted: "There is no magic button that can be pressed that will make small businessmen and women get paid on time."

The minister was responding to Ann Coffey, Labour MP for Stockport, who said that the Government's £230 million of late-paid bills in 1994/95 was a "disgrace".

Barbara Roche, Labour's trade spokeswoman, said that the minister was being complacent about the number of businesses that the Government was threatening by paying its own bills late.



Heseltine "strung creditors along"

### Debt advice firm faces debt threat

UNION FINANCE, the controversial debt-counselling service that promised to free borrowers from negative equity, will go out of business next month unless it pays an £8,000 debt. A winding-up petition was published yesterday in the *London Gazette*.

Customers who have paid £300 plus VAT for the firm's advice are unlikely to get their money back. The firm indicated yesterday that it would almost certainly not pay the debt, claimed by a former client for his legal costs, because this would open the way for other borrowers to demand similar payments.

Union Finance had pledged to pay the legal costs of Anthony Barnett, a Bradford & Bingley customer, who went to court after the firm advised him and other borrowers that he could not be pursued for debts if he handed his keys back to the lender, because his indemnity insurance protected the borrower not the lender. Judges in the county and high courts have ruled this is wrong.

## Court told of missions for Nadir

By Jon Ashworth

ASIL NADIR'S former financial adviser was sent to Switzerland to stop "terrified" bankers selling up to £300 million in shares amid fears of a catastrophic stock market crash, and not to launder stolen funds, a court heard yesterday.

The former chairman of Polly Peck International telephoned Elizabeth Forsyth from New York after stock markets plunged in October 1989, and instructed her to "hold the hand" of worried bankers in Geneva. Mr Nadir was concerned that a fall in stock market values would trigger margin calls against shares held as security for personal loans.

Geoffrey Robertson, QC, outlined the case for Mrs Forsyth on the second day of her trial at the Central Criminal Court, where she denies two counts of handling stolen funds. While in Geneva, she was allegedly asked to collect £400,000 in cash "as a favour" for Jason Davies, a stockbroker friend of Mr Nadir's son. She had no reason to suspect that there was anything suspicious in the transaction.

Mr Nadir, the court heard, was at the height of his fame and wealth at the time. He entertained cabinet ministers at his table and donated substantial sums to the Conservative Party. Mrs Forsyth's role was to liaise with bankers and accountants. She was in no sense "the brains behind his empire".

Earlier, the court heard how Mrs Forsyth took the perilous step of transporting £400,000 in cash in a briefcase, some of which was duly brought back to the UK. Some £88,050 was used to boost the fertility of a herd of bulls on Mr Nadir's farm in Leicester - one of various private assets which included works of art, racehorses and stately homes. The case continues.

## Apple boss in pay super-league

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

GILBERT AMELIO, the new chairman and chief executive of Apple Computer, which is facing severe financial problems and has been forced to suspend dividends, has joined the super-league of top-earning American executives.

He will be paid at least \$10 million a year in cash and shares for the next five years, documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission disclose. His remuneration could be higher if Apple's share price recovers.

Mr Amelio, 52, is also guaranteed a \$10 million "golden parachute" if the company is sold within the next year. He received a \$200,000 one-off bonus for signing up with Apple two weeks ago.

His pay package puts him in the same earnings bracket as the executives of some of America's largest companies, such as John Welch, head of General Electric, and Wayne Calloway, of PepsiCo. Apple, however, is in a state of crisis. Losses hit \$69 million in the last quarter and will be higher in the current one. Its shares, which stood at about \$50 a few months ago, are now at about \$28.

Mr Amelio's basic bonus and salary is \$2.5 million. He also gets 200,000 Apple stock each year and the option to buy a million more.

Pennington, page 25  
Apple vow, page 27

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# Home-losers 'may be victims of bad advice'

By Robert Miller

UP TO 100,000 people who have lost their homes in the past five years may have been the victims of bad or negligent advice by mortgage lenders, according to an authoritative survey scheduled to be published next week.

The report, which is backed by the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB), claims that lenders have surrendered endowment policies linked to home

loans rather than selling them on in the second-hand market.

The difference can be significant and often runs into thousands of pounds that is added to any outstanding debt after a house has been repossessed and still remains the responsibility of the borrower.

Now the money advice units of NACAB have been alerted to look out for a potential legal test case. Stuart Davidson, specialist money adviser at NACAB, said: "Lenders have a duty of care towards their

borrowers. We want to see a proper procedure introduced in repossession cases where, if a mortgage-linked endowment policy is to be sold, all the options are explored to secure the best deal for the consumer. If a policy has not been assigned over to the lender, then that lender should inform the borrower of the second-hand endowment market."

The three-year research project was conducted by Kingswood and Scottish Endowment Consultants, specialist firms in the market. A

number of leading building societies were contacted, including the Halifax, Britannia, West Bromwich and the Woolwich.

The researchers concluded that while some lenders were prepared to consider alternatives to surrendering, many dismissed the second-hand endowment market out of hand.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders, whose members represent 98 per cent of the UK retail home loans market, said that the decision to

surrender a policy or try to sell it on to someone else was a matter for individual members.

Brian Foster, of Kingswood, said: "In my opinion, lenders do not seem to consider the alternatives to surrendering policies. The Financial Services Act is designed to protect the public against bad advice and negligence resulting in financial loss. In fact, it has created an environment where people are being denied the level of advice they sorely need at a time when they need it most."

# Taxpayers hand £5bn 'bonus' to Revenue

By Sara McConnell

THIRTY MILLION people will hand the taxman a total of £5.5 billion in unnecessary tax this year, or an average of £180 each, because they are not using their allowances and do not understand the tax regime, according to a report published yesterday.

Next year, a further £1.1 billion could be lost by taxpayers failing to fill in returns correctly under a radical new system of self-assessment.

The report, commissioned by IFA Promotion, which promotes independent financial advisers, described the amount of lost tax as "staggering". Mintel, which calculated the figures on behalf of IFA Promotion, said that the £5.5 billion tax waste represented 7.7 per cent of all personal tax collected this year.

Savers wasted £1.06 billion by failing to make use of tax-free deposit accounts like tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) and by not registering to receive building society interest gross. This topped the list of 11 key areas identified by IFA Promotion.

Failure to plan ahead leads

to beneficiaries incurring a total bill of £930 million for inheritance tax, which could have been avoided. A further £860 million is wasted by holders of unit trusts not using their annual personal equity plan allowances to earn income and capital gains free of tax.

More than a million people have lost up to £540 million by not manipulating their investments to make the best use of personal allowances. Many are married couples where only one is working but who do not transfer investments into the name of the non-working spouse to make use of his or her allowances.

Up to £370 million is wasted by 500,000 employees over the age of 45 who are higher-rate taxpayers in company pension schemes but who are not making extra, tax-efficient payments to additional voluntary contribution plans. Small shareholders are paying up to £325 million of unnecessary capital gains tax by not using exemptions properly, or not making use of Peps.

Inland Revenue errors combined with penalties and interest for late payment of tax waste a further £200 million.

The advent of self-assessment will be costly for taxpayers, says Mintel. Under this system, the nine million people who receive tax returns will either have to calculate their own tax or supply detailed figures so that the Revenue can do it for them. There will be strict deadlines for filing returns and penalties for overshooting them.

Using the experience of Australian taxpayers under self-assessment as a model, Mintel calculates that penalties for late filing could total £18 million.

Tax charges and penalties for mistakes could cost £878 million. The self-employed could incur one-off costs totalling £220 million during the changeover from the present system to the new.



Sound investment: Lord Hensley says involvement in education by business will pay dividends

# Industry urged to link with education

By Lindsay Cook  
Business Editor

SOME 92 per cent of secondary schools and 58 per cent of primary schools have links with local businesses, Lord Hensley, Minister of State for Education and Employment, said yesterday, but further involvement will be encouraged in the spring.

He was speaking at a lunch to mark the production of *The Times 100* education project, designed to bridge the gap between education and industry. The pack of case studies of leading companies has been issued to 6,000 secondary schools and colleges with business studies courses, to be used by 750,000 students.

Lord Hensley said that involvement in education by business was a "sound investment that will pay dividends". He said his department was currently looking at ways it could expand the work experience scheme for 14- to 16-year-olds and will be issuing a consultative document in the spring. Currently 30 per cent of businesses involve themselves in education.

*The Times 100* project was launched to provide more up-to-date information about the challenges facing business and industry and how these are dealt with. It is intended to counter the negative view students have of British industry.

A survey carried out by the Centre for Applied Social and Organisational Research of the University of Derby last year showed that just 22 per cent of 16- to 19-year-olds saw themselves working in industry. More than half of the participating students had such a poor knowledge of British industry that they could not name three top British companies.

Sponsors of *The Times 100* include Abbey National, Allied Domecq, British Steel, Cadbury Schweppes, Coca-Cola, Ford Motor Company, John Lewis Partnership, Kodak, Midland Bank, National Power and Norwich Union.

# Gold shines in record year

By Colin Campbell, Mining Correspondent

GOLD, now back in fashion after January's burst through the psychological \$400-ounce barrier, enjoyed record demand in 1995.

Last year, and in spite of some softening in the fourth quarter, gold demand in the markets monitored by the World Gold Council reached 2,746 tonnes, a 10 per cent increase on 1994 figures and 7.6 per cent higher than the previous record in 1992.

In a current assessment, Helen Junz, director of the WGC Gold Economics Service, said the case for gold was still fundamentally strong — even

if growth rates fall back to more normal one-digit levels". WGC's latest quarterly *Gold Demand Trends* survey says: "With gold prices decisively breaking through the long-established constraining price ceiling, the rally has gained credibility, helped by further interest rate declines."

Eleven markets registered gold demand of more than 100 tonnes in 1995, compared with nine in 1994. Demand in four countries — Hong Kong, Thailand, Taiwan and China — was weaker last year.

However, in India, demand jumped 14 per cent to a record

474 tonnes. Fresh records were also set in Indonesia, Malaysia and South Korea. In Turkey, demand improved by 73 per cent above depressed 1994 levels to 139 tonnes.

Japan and Germany registered an unprecedented increase in investment demand. In Britain, jewellery demand made strong progress and was up 13 per cent to 39.3 tonnes. And in the US, for the fourth consecutive year, consumption reached record levels at 327.2 tonnes, 5 per cent up on 1994 levels. The WGC notes that in spite of the apparent narrow range in which gold

moved in dollars last year, there was considerable movement and activity in other currencies.

The WGC points out that price spikes, though confusing to consumers, do not necessarily choke off consumption/investment demand.

In many markets, rises in the gold price have been relatively readily absorbed, helped, in part, by the strength of growth in incomes, ensuring that 1995 was a year in which gold convincingly demonstrated its basic attributes: indestructibility, and security in times of financial uncertainty.

# Dunedin sale likely to be announced

THE agreed sale of Dunedin, Scotland's second-largest investment house with more than £5 billion under management, to Edinburgh Fund Managers for between £75 million and £90 million is expected to be announced tomorrow.

Bank of Scotland, which has a 51 per cent stake in Dunedin through the British Lion Bank, will unveil the details of the sale provided that Edinburgh, which beat off a rival bid from Ivory & Sims and which manages some £3 billion of funds, can raise the money, possibly through a share offer. The sale of Dunedin follows the departure of a number of key executives.

# Oriel up on bid talk

SHARES in Oriel, the insurance broker, jumped 39p to 188p yesterday amid speculation that Aon Corporation, the Chicago insurer, might bid for it. Oriel, which earned pre-tax profits of about £2 million in the half year to June 30, confirmed receiving "tentative approaches from a number of parties". However, Nigel Cayzer, chairman, said it had "not received a formal offer proposal". Aon is one of America's six biggest insurance brokers. Oriel is a small broker specialising in mechanical warranties of the type applied to second-hand cars.

# MMC inquiry extended

AN INQUIRY by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission into the supply of electrical goods is to be extended after the MMC said it needed more time to investigate price determination by manufacturers. It had been due to report by the end of April. The investigation was initiated by the Director General of Fair Trading last year. His office found that some makers of electrical goods were refusing to supply shops that were undercutting manufacturers' recommended retail prices. Discount clubs and out-of-town retail chains were most affected.

# Braas confirms sales dip

REDLAND, the UK building materials company, is considering injecting some of its Dutch and Belgian tile operations into Braas, its 50.8 per cent-owned German subsidiary. Yesterday, Braas confirmed that sales fell by 4.7 per cent, to DM2.16 billion, in 1995 and gave warning of a similar decline in 1996. Paul Hewitt, finance director of Redland, said the Braas would concentrate on improving efficiency in 1996. Redland receives a cash dividend of about £50 million a year from its investment in Braas.

# Gas rivalry heats up

CALORTEX, the joint gas venture between Calor and Texaco, has moved to seize the initiative in the increasingly fierce marketing arena in the South West ahead of the gas competition trial, with a guarantee to start competitive pricing in April. Calortex, which is offering two rates dependent on usage, says its rates will reduce an average bill of £350 a year by £85. The move is likely to increase pressure among new suppliers coming into the market and sharpen marketing strategies, some of which have been condemned by the Gas Consumers Council.

# Flying Flowers soars

FLYING FLOWERS, the fresh flowers express distribution company, increased its profits before tax to £2.64 million from £1.8 million in the year to December 29, aided by the completion of a new glasshouse in Jersey which has the capacity to grow 20 million plants at one time. Turnover advanced to £26.1 million from £14.5 million. Earnings were 10.65p a share, compared with 7.69p. There will be a final gross dividend of 2.7p a share, increased from 2p. The shares rose 4p to 140p.

# Turbine order won

COOPER ROLLS, an equally-owned joint venture between Cooper Cameron Corporation, of Houston, Texas, and Rolls-Royce, the UK aero-engines company, has secured orders for nine turbines for gas compression and power generation valued at nearly \$100 million, it was announced yesterday. Included in the orders are the first Coberra gas turbines destined for Slovakia, Pakistan and Italy. Other units are destined for Russia and Malaysia.

# Labour's nuclear threat

LABOUR yesterday pressed the Government for a last-minute ditching of the sell-off of the nuclear power industry and said a Labour government would not guarantee to pay off the industry's liabilities. British Energy, the holding company for Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, is locked in talks with the DTI over how much of the liabilities for decommissioning old power stations and dealing with spent fuel should be carried by the company. British Energy wants to go into the private sector with as few liabilities as possible.

# Bensons reduces loss

BENSONS CRISPS, the snacks manufacturer, reduced its pre-tax losses to £747,000, from £6.7 million, in the year to November 30, in spite of a £933,000 charge against an asset write-down. The core business earned profits of £221,000 before tax and exceptional costs, recovering from a loss of £3.5 million previously. Losses per share eased to 1p, from 25.3p. There is again no dividend. After a year of substantial restructuring, gearing has been reduced to 64 per cent, from 237 per cent. The shares were unchanged at 23p yesterday.

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.13	1.87
Austria Sch	15.82	15.42
Belgium Fr	49.53	45.23
Canada \$	2.22	2.00
Cyprus Cyp£	0.759	0.704
Denmark Kr	9.37	8.57
Finland Mk	7.54	6.59
France Fr	6.21	7.56
Germany Dm	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr	391.00	388.00
Hong Kong \$	12.54	11.54
Ireland P£	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.192	4.290
Italy Lit	2542.00	2287.00
Japan Yen	179.50	162.50
Malta	0.594	0.528
Netherlands Gld	2.688	2.458
New Zealand \$	2.43	2.21
Norway Kr	10.48	9.59
Portugal Esc	246.50	228.00
S Africa Rd	inf.	5.26
Spain Pta	197.50	184.50
Sweden Kr	11.34	10.54
Switzerland Fr	1.98	1.80
Turkey Lira	inf.	94318.0
USA \$	1.638	1.508

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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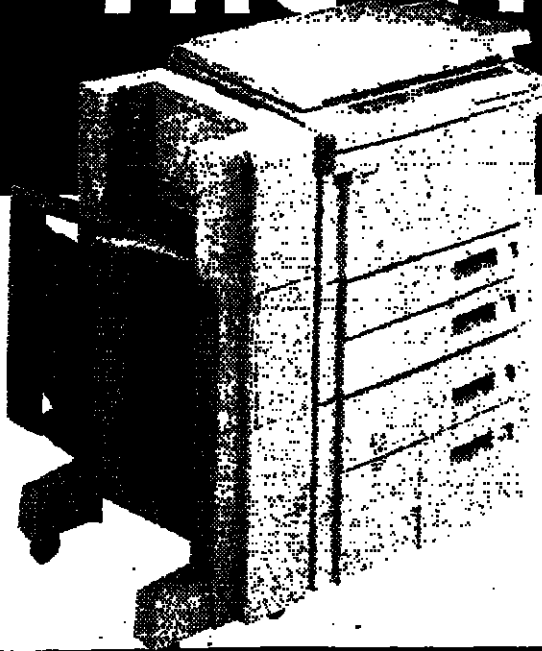
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□ Further shake-up among mutuals? □ Bank comes clean on inflation forecast □ Cold comfort for auditors

## Friendly deal for Scottish Amicable

THE smoke screens being put up by Scottish Amicable are not as effective as deflecting attention as they might be.

The mutual insurer has already hinted that it is not wedded to the concept of mutualism. Behind the scenes, there is a great deal of activity, and demoralisation, in one form or another, is on the cards.

Scottish Amicable recognises that it has three options. It can stand still — but this is not an option today. It could seek a stock market listing, or team up with a third party.

In an ideal world, Scottish Amicable would head for the stock market. One million with-profit life customers who effectively own the company would then share the proceeds of an estimated £1 billion market valuation. A flotation would provide the flexibility to obtain extra capital to compete for the limited amounts of new business around in what is becoming an increasingly competitive market.

However, it would also make Scottish Amicable vulnerable to a hostile takeover. It is not big enough to remain independent for long. With £9.7 billion under management, Scottish Amicable is Scotland's third biggest mutual insurer after Standard Life and Scottish Widows.

Any predator would avoid the need to pay a hefty premium to

embedded value and could simply await its arrival on the stock market and follow the disciplined approach of the Takeover Code. This makes the third option, acquisition by a third party, the most likely option.

With this in mind, Scottish Amicable has appointed Tillinghast, the actuaries, to conduct a valuation and SBC Warburg, the investment bank, to examine the options.

The insurer is not alone. Clerical Medical has put itself up for sale. Friends Provident is another obvious candidate. Scottish Widows may be making bold statements about being master of its own fate and to taking management of costs into its own hands, but the insurer is on every buyer's list of targets.

There are plenty of those buyers. Lloyds Abbey Life said yesterday that it would be interested in buying at the right price. The Halifax needs a good life brand. NatWest is determined to build up its share of the long-term life and pensions market. Abbey National bought and successfully integrated Scottish Mutual in 1992 and has in-

dictated a wish to expand its life assurance business.

Sun Alliance, Commercial Union and even Norwich Union, which is planning a float of its own next year, would also make sense. Aegon or Fortis, two Continental insurers, might be attractive to the management since they could offer former guarantees of independence.

Scottish Amicable needs to get a move on. The insurer can point to a reasonable investment performance and a good brand name. But talks with prospective partners should start soon, before all the best ones have been snapped up.

### New face on an old coin

NEVER let it be said that the Bank of England ignores criticism. In yesterday's Inflation Report, the Bank went out of its way to respond to its detractors.

There were pretty charts in purple and orange and a new section that comes clean on its own forecasting record, both



world for the first time by Mervyn King, the Bank's director of economics, with all the pride of a new father.

The charts, one of which is reproduced in today's Economic View (page 27), are designed to deflect attention away from the Bank's central forecast for inflation two years hence and make people think more in terms of a range of probabilities.

This is sensible, if only because forecasting over such a long period does not lend itself to pinpoint accuracy, and the Bank has had to swallow enough criticism of its record without having to answer for percentage point differences in its predictions. Mr King has always been at pains to say that the Inflation

Report offers nothing more than a best guess.

The new section comes in response to a scathing attack from the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee recently. The committee accused the Bank of a perennial bias towards pessimism on inflation and demanded that it publish its track record.

In both 1993 and 1994, the Bank has had to concede undue pessimism but still argues that it was less wrong than most outside forecasters and has been more accurate in 1995. The record suggests that interest rates could have been cut earlier and further in the period after sterling came out of the exchange-rate mechanism, that they need not have been raised subsequently to the extent that they were and that they should have been cut before December.

But this debate is only about a half point here or there, a month early or late. It is nit-picking compared with the astonishing misjudgment of the sterling futures markets over the same period. In November 1994, the futures markets were expecting

interest rates of around 9 per cent in December 1995. Against such pessimism, the Bank looks positively Panglossian.

### De maximis non curat lex

HAVING reached a low point where big ticket lawsuits were deterring potential partners from joining, Big Six accountancy firms must have thought they were moving swiftly to the sunny uplands.

First, they arranged with Jersey to introduce US-style limited liability partnerships. The house in Guildford would be safe, if not the firm. Then America unexpectedly enacted a proportionate liability law, saving auditors who had only failed to spot a fraud early from being responsible for all the money lost. Surely Britain would be next.

If the Big Six were huddled into a false sense of security, Professor Andrew Burrows and his team at the Law Commission have swiftly woken them up, rejecting any reform of the principle of joint and several liability out of

hand. Their report displays all the precious superiority of an assize judge after a good lunch. If their arguments are sound in common law, that is a case for statute. In essence, they rate the principles of the law above the way society might find it sensible and practical to order its affairs.

This preciousness extends to alternatives that are unfair and objectionable to clients of accountants, civil engineers and other professionals, namely that liability might be capped by statute or by contract. This has the virtue, say the lawyers, of being seen for what it is: "a pragmatic abandonment of principle". Lawyers can cherish their heritage and wash their hands of the real world. Thank goodness accountants have long ceased to think like that.

### Byte in the bonus

THEY do things differently in America, clearly. Here, a chief executive is hired on the understanding that, if a corporate raider arrives alongside, he does his level best to repel boarders or at least make capture as expensive as possible. But the bonuses agreed for Gilbert Amelio, the new head at Apple Computer, seem structured to accelerate a takeover. Good news for Apple's shareholders — but Sir Rocco Forte must be wondering where he went wrong.

## Lloyds Abbey Life shares leap on 31% profits rise

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY AND PATRICIA TEHAN

SHARES in Lloyds Abbey Life (LAL), the life insurance group that is 60 per cent owned by Lloyds Bank, jumped 18p, to 506p, yesterday after the group reported better than expected pre-tax profits.

For the 12 months to December 31, pre-tax profit advanced 31 per cent, to £421.5 million, while the group agreed to raise the dividend by 10 per cent, to 21.5p.

Analysts, who had forecast a much smaller rise in profits due to a general slump in life and pensions business, said that much of the growth had come from existing life policies that were maturing. In addition, the cost of retaining the group's sales force had hit profits disproportionately hard in 1994, making the 1995 results look better.

The results included a £35 million loss from the sale of Trans Leben, LAL's loss-making German life insurance subsidiary, at the end of last year.

Pre-tax profits in Black Horse Financial Services, which sells life assurance and

pensions through Lloyds Bank branches, rose to £121.1 million, against £71.5 million last time, while those for Abbey Life were up by 17 per cent, to £149 million.

Detailed figures show that single premium products grew by 36 per cent in total for 1995. Laurel Powers-Freeling, the group's finance director, said that guaranteed bonds had accounted for almost half of all single premium business in both companies during the 12-month reporting period.

But while shareholders may be happy, life and pensions policyholders have seen only average returns. Both the Abbey Life Managed fund and the Black Horse funds turned in an average performance last year, while Abbey Life products did slightly better than average over five years, according to figures issued by Micropal, the statistics agency.

Losses at Black Horse Agencies (BHA), the estate agency division, deepened to £9.5 million (£3.7 million), with fee income falling 13 per cent.

Stephen Maran, the group's chief executive, said that middle-market housing in the south of England, which was BHA's "heartland", had been particularly badly affected. He said there were no plans to sell BHA, although the City believes that LAL would be keen to dispose of it at the right price.

Sir Simon Hornby, chairman, refused to comment on how current discussions between Lloyds Bank and the TSB, which merged in December to form Lloyds TSB Group, would affect LAL.

He said that the introduction last year of disclosure rules, which required sales forces to give details of expenses and commission on life products, had not deterred customers from making purchases. However, he said that consumers "remained reluctant to make long-term financial commitments".

The company has already set aside £80 million to compensate customers who may have been misled: personal pensions.

Lloyds Bowmaker, the finance house, made £74.5 million pre-tax profit, a 2 per cent increase on 1994, while Lloyds Bank Insurance Services increased to £92.4 million (£70.8 million).

Meanwhile, LAL is considering the acquisition of a mutual life company. Possible targets include Scottish Widows, Friends Provident, Clerical Medical and Scottish Amicable. However, the insurer was surprised not to have been included among those approached by Clerical Medical, which recently put itself up for sale.

Stephen Maran, chief executive of LAL, said that the acquisition of a large mutual would demonstrate its wish to be seen as a serious player in the independent financial adviser market. He added: "If we were to tie our distributive power to a wider selection of products, including with-profits, and apply our ability to manage costs we could have something going."

But he added that any acquisition would have to be at the right price and the right fit for Lloyds Abbey Life. He said he was "worried that the prices for these firms will get out of hand."

Pennington, page 25



Georgine Thorburn, right, and Diana Polloni, of Document SOS, yesterday

## Restorers tackle Docklands files hit by bombing

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

MANAGERS of businesses hit by last week's bombing of the London Docklands are returning to their offices to find that thousands of valuable documents have been badly damaged.

The damage is caused by glass splinters from shattered windows peppering the papers, and by dust and debris settling on them. In some buildings, sprinklers activated by the blast also soaked files.

Repairing papers damaged in this way may seem an impossible task, but companies such as Document SOS, a London specialist in commercial document restoration, use skills learnt from handling antique documents.

The company uses chemicals to lift the debris and glass fragments from the paper. If the documents have been water damaged, they are restored by air-drying or vacuum freezing.

It takes a couple of days' intensive work to restore one cabinet full of papers, so the millions of documents affected by Friday's blast are likely to require several months' work. Georgine Thorburn, the managing director of Docu-

ment SOS, said: "Although we only have a normal workforce size of five, we will hire up to 80 people to help in an emergency like this."

Document SOS's staple work is restoring documents damaged by fire and flooding. Flooding has been a particular problem for businesses this year, with freezing weather resulting in hundreds of burst pipes. Arson is also a common cause of damage, especially in libraries and solicitors' offices.

Ms Thorburn said: "Arson attacks on solicitors' offices are surprisingly common. We dealt with an arson case recently in the matrimonial department of a firm of solicitors. You can draw your own conclusions about the reasons for the attack."

Ms Thorburn insists that restoring documents is highly cost effective. She said: "Restoring a library containing 30,000 books would cost around £30,000, compared with £250,000 to replace them. Even photocopying is more expensive."

The company has just set up a database, thought to be the first of its kind in the world, to pool information on dealing with document damage.

## Decision day on bid by Farnell

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE fate of Farnell's bid £1.8 billion bid for Premier, the American electronic distribution company, will be decided this morning at the company's extraordinary meeting at its headquarters in Wetherby, West Yorkshire.

It will be a close-fought battle, since Standard Life, the fund management group, declared its opposition to the bid last week.

Standard Life, which owns 2 per cent of the shares, expressed its concern about the price, which represents a 40 per cent takeover premium, and Farnell's debt-funding plans to pay for the takeover.

Legal and General, which holds 1.5 per cent, has also said publicly that it will vote against the deal.

To pass the meeting, Farnell must secure the backing of 75 per cent of shareholders. It has secured the support of major fundholders such as Mercury Asset Management, Scottish

Widows and Fleming Fund Management, representing a total of 25.1 per cent of shares. Farnell said at the weekend that the "vast majority" of proxy votes it had received were in support of the deal. However, it has insufficient votes to guarantee success.

The future of the deal is now likely to hinge on the votes of two other large institutional shareholders, Norwich Union and Prudential, which control a further 9.5 per cent of Farnell between them and are believed to have reservations about the takeover. Both have refused to comment.

Farnell has defended the deal, which would catapult it into the FTSE 100, in terms of the quality of Premier's business and geographical fit. The takeover would result in the Mandel family, Premier's present owners, taking a 25 per cent stake in Farnell. The shares crept up 2p to 637p yesterday.

## Line rental charges rule ended for BT

BY ERIC REGULY

OFTEL, the telecommunications regulator, yesterday abolished the regulation that prevents BT from raising its line rental charges by more than 2 percentage points above the inflation rate.

The company, however, said there would be no immediate changes to the prices and that dramatic rises would be unlikely because its overall price cap remains in place.

OfTel said the cap on line rentals was archaic now that BT faces substantial competition from cable telephony companies. BT welcomed the move, noting that it was a step towards its goal of obtaining total price freedom, and plans to launch a series of residential phone packages, similar to the ones offered by mobile phone companies, later this year.

They would replace the standard line rental charge of £24.79 per quarter and would vary in price depend-

ing on customers' phone use patterns. Those who use the phone a lot, for example, might opt for a high line rental fee in exchange for lower call charges.

So-called access deficit charges are disappearing with the line rental constraints. The charge was collected from Mercury Communications by BT to help to maintain its vast phone infrastructure. Mercury said elimination will save it about £40 million a year.

In a separate development, Mercury condemned BT for what it sees as a new effort to restrict competition. BT has asked OfTel to allow it to impose a £1 per month fee, called a "charge for indirect access," for customers who choose to bypass BT's network. Customers who switch on to the Mercury network by pressing the blue buttons on their Mercury phones would qualify for the charge.

## Hanson hurt by higher interest rate charges

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

HANSON, the industrial conglomerate, yesterday revealed reduced first-quarter profits of £262 million, after it was hit by a 60 per cent jump in interest rate charges to £85 million.

The 3.5 per cent decline, also reflecting the end of contributions from the demerged USI businesses, did little to reassure the City, in spite of a better than expected performance from Eastern Group, the newly acquired electricity company. Shares, already depressed by concern over the implications of the demerger plans, fell back a further 34p to 1804p.

Hanson said work was continuing on the demerger, which will divide the group into four quoted companies in the coming year, but it would be some time before more details were available. The disposals of Sverdrup Propane and Cavenham remain on track.

Operating profits were ahead by 17 per cent at £326 million on an increased turn-

over of £3.1 billion, up 19 per cent, while earnings per share were flat at 3.9p. Lord Hanson, chairman, said: "This very satisfactory result is in line with expectations. We are ahead of last year after adjusting for USI contributions. Shareholders also continue to benefit from the increase in value of their USI holding."

Eastern Group registered profits of £75 million. Hanson said it was expected to enhance full-year earnings to a greater degree than previously anticipated. Overall, the energy division increased profits by 140 per cent to £118 million, in spite of a worse than expected performance from Peabody, the coal company.

SCM Chemicals, benefiting from improved margins, lifted profits. But Quantum could not match last year's record performance: profits fell by almost a third to £58 million. Profits for the chemicals division, as a whole, fell 14 per

cent to £91 million on reduced turnover of £429 million.

There was also continued weakness in the UK building material sector, although Hanson said it was confident that these businesses would improve. Cornerstone and Grove increased profits, while ARC preserved its profits in spite of difficult conditions. But Hanson Brick and Hanson Electrical suffered from a fall in UK housing starts. Overall, the building division maintained profits at £36 million on an increased turnover of £553 million, up 8 per cent. Imperial Tobacco also registered a fall in profits, although an improved contribution from Seven Seas, the vitamin company, ensured that the consumer division only suffered a small drop in total profits to £81 million.

A quarterly dividend of 3p will be paid on April 9.

Tempos, page 26

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Takeover rumours push BET shares to new high

BET, the cleaning, security and building services group, went on bid alert last night amid claims that Clive Thompson's fast-growing Rentokil was poised to strike.

In heavy trading that saw more than 28 million shares, or 3 per cent of the company, BET climbed 10 1/2 p to a new high of 150p. Speculators are talking of a bid of around 180p a share, valuing BET at £1.7 billion. "It is clearly a bit more than your run-of-the-mill type of ramp in the shares," said one leading trader.

Rentokil was non-committal. Clive Thompson, chief executive, and the man who has turned Rentokil into a company capitalised at more than £3.5 billion, with double-digit earnings growth, said: "It is not our practice to comment on market rumours."

Rentokil has made more than 200 acquisitions in recent years, mostly in the UK, and the company does have experience of making aggressive bids, having snapped up Securicard Group for about £80 million several years ago. Rentokil finished 4 1/2 p lower at 362 1/2 p.

The rest of the equity market failed to break out of its narrow trading range, despite mounting pressure on the Chancellor for a cut in bank base rates. The latest Bank of England inflation report indicated that inflation was set to fall below 2.5 per cent within two years, reviving hopes that there is scope for a further softening of rates.

However, with Wall Street lower in early trading, investors remained cautious ahead of today's Scott report into arms for Iraq and the Retail Price Index. The FTSE 100 index finished 2.6 p down at 3,745.0, with total turnover reaching 739 million shares.

David S Smith stood out with a rise of 8p to 297p, supported by positive recommendations from BZW and Merrill Lynch Smith New Court. Pearson fell 6p to 67p in spite of denying it was joining a consortium to bid for Aaron Spelling's film production in the US.

News of a demerger price was sent Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and household products group, slithering 17p to £12.73. The news also hit McErdie, down 5p at a low of 134p. It followed a move by Procter & Gamble to take on



Driving off: Clubhaus's Robert Bourne and Baron von Spoelcken

own-label competitors. Newcomer McErdie, which specialises in own-label goods, saw its share price hit last month after warning that rising costs and pressure on margins could hit profits.

Unilever also announced plans to acquire Helene Curtis, the US personal care group, for \$770 million. Unilever has spent almost £1

million. The group had little to add about its proposed four-way demerger. The share finished 3 1/2 p lower at 180 1/2 p.

Lloyds Abbey Life responded to better-than-expected full-year figures with a jump of 18p to 506p. Pre-tax profits were up 30 per cent at £421.5 million with shareholders receiving a 10 per cent increase in the total dividend to 21.5p. The market

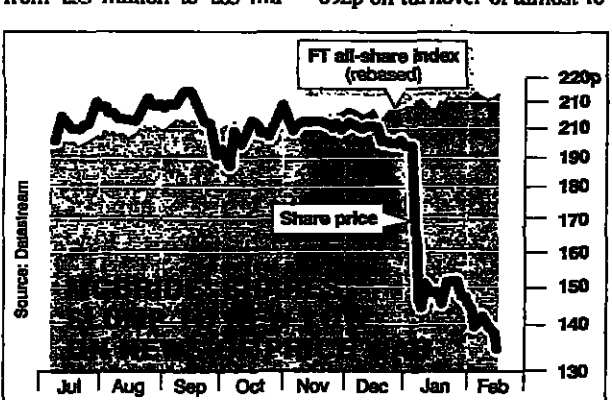
A buy recommendation from Cazenove, the broker, lifted Lasso 7p to 171p. Williams de Broe, the broker, also says Lasso is a chart buy with the relative strength line highlighting the underperformance of the shares. It says the next step for the Lasso price is 190p, after which it could double in value.

billions on acquisitions this year to date.

First-quarter figures from Hanson were at the top end of expectations but still showed a downturn of £10 million to £262 million. The figures included a first-time contribution of £75 million from Eastern, but were distorted by last year's demerger of USI. Interest charges were also up from £53 million to £85 mil-

lion. The group had little to add about its proposed four-way demerger. The share finished 3 1/2 p lower at 180 1/2 p.

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million shares. But fresh pressure on margins left Argyle, the Safeway supermarket chain, 6p down at 310p.

News of a bid approach sent Oriel, the insurance broker, soaring 39p to 188p. Talk in the marketplace centred on Aon, the US insurance company. A statement from Oriel said: "Tentative approaches have been received from a number of parties but the board has not received a formal offer proposal."

Speculators have been talking of a possible bid of up to 250p a share, valuing the entire company at £72.5 million.

A profits warning left Feuchtwang Insurance 19p off at 125p. Brokers had been looking for a final outcome of around £9 million compared with £8.4 million last time.

Rupert Hambro, chairman, blamed poor market conditions and longer-than-expected lead times in the projects division. There was also a question mark over income from its international division.

Clubhaus teed-off its stock market debut with a small premium. The group, which owns and operates golf courses in Europe, opened at 8 1/2 p compared with the original open offer price of 7 1/2 p. The shares ended the day at 8p, a premium of 1/2 p, with almost eight million shares changing hands. The premium was achieved despite only 30 per cent of the 66.6 million shares being taken up. Assets are calculated at a minimum 9p a share and the group hopes to take advantage of the falling price for golf courses.

□ GILT-EDGED: Prices opened little reflecting weak German bonds and nervousness ahead of the Bank of England inflation report. Attempts at a rally after the report were published proved short-lived with prices closing near their low for the day.

In the futures pit the March series of the long gilt finished £192 down at £108 1/2 p in heavy turnover that saw 92,000 contracts completed.

Among conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 retreated £2 1/2 p to £100 1/2 p, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £9 1/2 p at £104 1/2 p.

□ NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street were mixed in late morning trading as an attempt at a rally by industrials faltered. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 28.18 points, at 5570.52.

New York (midday):

Dow Jones 5573.05 (-28.18)

S&amp;P Composite 656.69 (-3.29)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average 20943.59 (+159.30)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng 11364.46 (+164.27)

Amsterdam:

BSE Index 510.73 (+0.70)

Sydney:

2300.8 (+11.1)

Frankfurt:

DAX 2427.07 (+8.94)

Singapore:

Straits 2400.62 (-22.05)

Brussels:

General 8749.39 (+57.98)

Paris:

CAC-40 1956.38 (-26.95)

Zurich:

SIX 730.30 (+1.70)

London:

FT 30 2738.7 (-10.0)

FT 100 3745.0 (-2.6)

FT 250 4167.1 (+1.4)

FT 400 1865.9 (-0.8)

FT 500 1549.0 (-4.5)

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## Taking personal care

UNILEVER'S Valentine proposal to Helene Curtis is nicely timed and shifts the focus from news that Procter & Gamble, Unilever's American rival, is mounting an aggressive price challenge to own-label rivals in detergents and cleaning fluids. Unilever, too, is a big player in household products, but it yesterday chose to boost its share of the personal care market, which accounts for 15 per cent of its sales.

Cleaning products is a cut-throat business. The scope for cutting prices is limited, and launching new products is more expensive than could be justified by the expected returns. Buying up competitors can be a logical step, and Helene is well established in hair care, enhancing Unilever's share of the market, particularly in the US, where the company has been lagging. The deal will

make Unilever No 2 worldwide behind L'Oréal.

The problem could be price. The £488 million purchase is likely to be earnings dilutive in the short term, but not drastically. Expansion in personal care shifts the emphasis from food, where Unilever faces rising raw material costs. Investors have already been primed for a £126 million bill for restructuring European food operations. Unilever's deal again raises the question of what value should be put on household brands. P&G's action confirms that even strong brand names are vulnerable to own-label discounts. Although the addition of Helene Curtis shifts the balance away from more vulnerable products, investors should ask whether the goodwill premium is worth paying if it leads only to price wars, restructuring and extra costs.

## Lloyds Abbey

IF LLOYDS BANK was ever minded to buy in the minority stake in its life insurance subsidiary, it has certainly missed the boat. Last year, the bank could have acquired paper yielding more than 7 per cent and passed on the saving in dividend to its own shareholders.

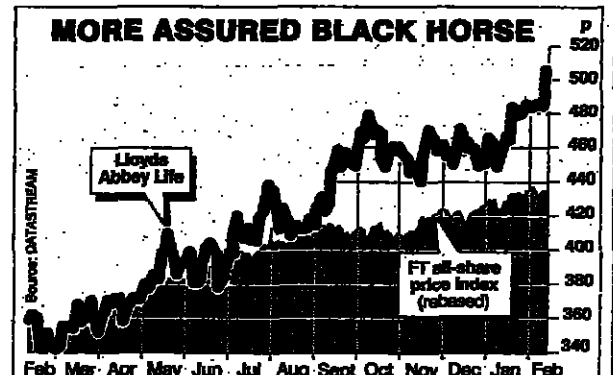
Since then, Lloyds Abbey Life has done a good job of removing cost from its underperforming Black Horse Financial Services. Bancassurance was all the rage several years ago but few have derived much benefit from it. Compared with Abbey Life's 9 per cent rise in new business, sales at Black Horse were static.

Abbey Life's performance was impressive in a year when new life business is thought to be down 15 per

cent. Even so, the firm has its weaknesses, notably weak links to independent Financial Advisers. Abbey Life sells mainly through its direct sales force and would like to sell more to IFAs who virtually control the market for more sophisticated pension products. Abbey Life sells unit-linked policies but IFAs are still wedded to

with-profits policies. Abbey's best bet is probably the acquisition of a mutual insurer with good pensions products.

Still, Lloyds Abbey should continue to grow and could deliver another 10 per cent dividend increase this year leaving the shares inexpensive on a 5.8 per cent yield.



## Hanson

SADLY, Hanson has deteriorated into an ageing has-been. Yesterday's first quarter figures did little more than confirm to investors that Lord Hanson's decision to finally break-up the creaking giant was more akin to a desperate spin of the dice than a triumphant last tour.

The company is now valued at £1.65 billion less than in the immediate aftermath of the announcement last month, and the share price has fallen 10 per cent since the company disclosed its demerger plans.

But if shareholders were having second thoughts about the merits of demerger, yesterday's quarterly results are a reminder of why the decision was taken. Although the future is uncertain for the four companies, Hanson could no longer get by playing the same game. Cost-cutting, a tight control on working capital and maximising cash flow are no

longer novel disciplines for company directors. However Hanson failed to come up with other reasons for keeping disparate businesses under one roof. Three of Hanson's four divisions registered a fall in profits and while Eastern Group made a promising contribution, some of the benefit was wiped out by a large increase in interest charges.

While the ultimate shape of the demerger, Hanson remains unclear, shareholders can only cling to the hope that the ultimate break-up will attract predators for the four mini-Hansons.

## Vardon

FULL year figures from Vardon, whose leisure empire spans the London Dungeon to Sea Life Centres, looked good. The company survived the distractions of an unusually hot summer and National Lottery mania.

There was solid progress at the European Sea Life Centres and the London Dun-

geon, though the latter could suffer a loss of business if London's tourists, particularly Americans, are frightened off by the recent bomb.

Vardon is cash generative and boasts strong interest cover, which should allow it to go ahead with expansion plans for Sea Life centres in Germany and Birmingham while keeping gearing at 50 per cent. Meanwhile, the recent decline in scratchcard sales should protect the bingo clubs from further sales erosion.

Vardon's niche venues are vulnerable to sudden shifts in the tourist trade but shocks aside the shares look inexpensive with forecast profits of £11.5 million. At 13 times earnings, the price is low for the leisure sector.

Merrill Lynch forecasts 1996 pre-tax profits of £11.5 million, putting the shares on an inexpensive price earnings multiple of 13 times - undervalued for the leisure sector.

There was solid progress at the European Sea Life Centres and the London Dun-

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

# COMMODITIES

## KIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

### CRUDE OIL (\$/barrel FOB)

Current Physical	18.00	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Mar)	17.85	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Apr)	17.10	+0.05
WTI (physical)	17.10	+0.05
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THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

## Inflation diet plan

MERVYN KING, the Bank of England's head of economics, became boyishly animated at yesterday's press conference on the Inflation Report when asked for a metaphor for the fight against inflation. If inflation is not dead, should we describe it as comatose, a sleeping giant? No, he said, warning to his theme. Fighting inflation must be seen as a process, a way of life. We must avoid painful crash diets followed by crazy binges and pursue a sensible eating plan, he said with the enthusiasm of any Weight Watchers counsellor. King is speaking from experience, being a long devotee of the Montignac eating plan. He avoids combining starch and protein in a single meal and eschews potatoes. The slim-line and energetic King provides the evidence that it works.

## Suckered

LOVE denied. A foreign correspondent in New York decided to send his fiancée a dozen red roses, and so as to make somebody's day gave \$20 to a homeless person to make the delivery. You've guessed it. The flowers did not arrive.

## Dynamic duo

CAREER civil servant Peter Wanless was appointed Joint Head of the Treasury's Private Finance Unit yesterday, working alongside another ex-servant Douglas Hogg, who is on secondment from Eurotunnel. Wanless, 34, who worked as a private secretary to John Major and Norman Lamont, spent a year at the Department of Employment as press secretary to Michael Portillo. He was left without a job after the DoE's responsibilities were split between it and the Trade and Industry department.



"Well — do we catch the plane or don't we?"

## No charge

NEVER look a battery charger in the mouth, especially when on an analysts' visit to a company that makes them. Engineering analyst John Dean of Birmingham brokers Albert E. Sharp, fresh back from honeymoon, drove to Leicester railway station in his Porsche to meet fellow analysts who had travelled north by train to spend a day with specialist engineering concern B. Elliott. As luck would have it, when the mini-bus drew off and Dean tried to follow, his Porsche wouldn't start. Elliott's chief executive, Michael Frye readily offered an Elliott battery charger, but Dean apparently preferred to watch fellow analysts pocket their mobile phones and their dignity to lend a shoulder instead. B Elliott shares were unchanged at 10p last night.

DESPODIC employers have been advised to temper their "callous" ways and handle new recruits with more care. Alan Fowler, author of *Employee Induction: A Good Start*, part of the *Managing Skills* series, advises employers to put as much time and money into new recruits as they would into new machinery.

COLIN CAMPBELL

## Good news for the economy, but maybe not for politicians

Open debate would lead to better policy and keep City worries to a minimum

So perhaps there was no row after all. Perhaps Ken and Eddie really are the best of friends, just as they have claimed all along. To judge by yesterday's Bank of England Inflation Report, Eddie George, the Bank Governor, should have had no trouble endorsing the reduction in interest rates announced by Kenneth Clarke after their January monetary meeting. Mr George's sullen silence after that meeting was generally interpreted as a sign of his disapproval. But maybe this was just a feint designed to keep journalists and City analysts on their toes.

Yesterday's Inflation Report declared: "It is a little more likely than not that inflation will be somewhat below 2.5 per cent in two years' time." To illustrate this point, the Bank even published its inflation projections in a new form. Although it was still too coy to say exactly what it thought in figures, it produced a chart illustrating the probabilities of inflation (see above). This chart shows that the probability of inflation coming very near the official inflation target is 10 per cent — but, much more importantly, that the probability of falling within the range of 1 to 4 per cent is now well over 70 per cent.

This may not sound like a ringing affirmation of confidence in the official inflation target. But by the standards of the Bank's past pronouncements it sparkles with optimism. Mervyn King, the Bank's economics director, insisted yesterday that this statement was "not a green light for significant further interest rate cuts", but the City immediately pounced on the word "significant". It seemed to be carefully inserted to avoid ruling out another quarter-point cut. Indeed, investors are more confident than ever that base rates will be cut to 6 per cent on March 7, the date of the next Ken and Eddie show.

All this is excellent news. Even after yesterday's sharp drop in unemployment, the economy needs the tonic of another rate cut. And Tory backbenchers certainly need the tonic of faster economic growth as they brace themselves for their appointment with the voters. But Britain's politicians need to face up to some awkward questions before they get carried away by all the good news from the economy. The first question is how much political benefit the

Government can realistically expect from Britain's improving economic fortunes. This may hardly seem worth asking. At Westminster, it is almost universally assumed that a healthy economic upswing could still prove a winning card for John Major in the general election. Unfortunately for the Tories, the evidence for such a belief is extremely slim.

Innumerable efforts have been made by psephologists, economists and City analysts to find stable relationships between voting figures and economic variables. Mortgage rates, incomes, inflation, unemployment, house prices have all been tried in every possible permutation — and none has come up with a correlation that satisfies even the lowly standards of statistical reliability used for econometric models. As David Walton, of Goldman Sachs, concluded in a comprehensive study of such voting models before the last election:

"There is a widespread belief that general election results are primarily determined by economic factors and it has become fashionable to use econometric models to predict the outcome of the next general election given forecasts for interest rates, incomes, consumer confidence, unemployment and so on. These projections are worth very little. Under most economic conditions the margin of error in these models is easily large enough to encompass a landslide victory and a humiliating defeat."

The fact is that election

results are influenced by factors such as leadership, trust, social vision and military adventures, all of which lie far outside the realm of economics. This gulf between perceptions of politics and economics is well illustrated by a poll of institutional fund managers produced last week by Gallup for Merrill Lynch: 81 per cent expected an improvement in economic conditions; but 95 per cent also expected a Labour government.

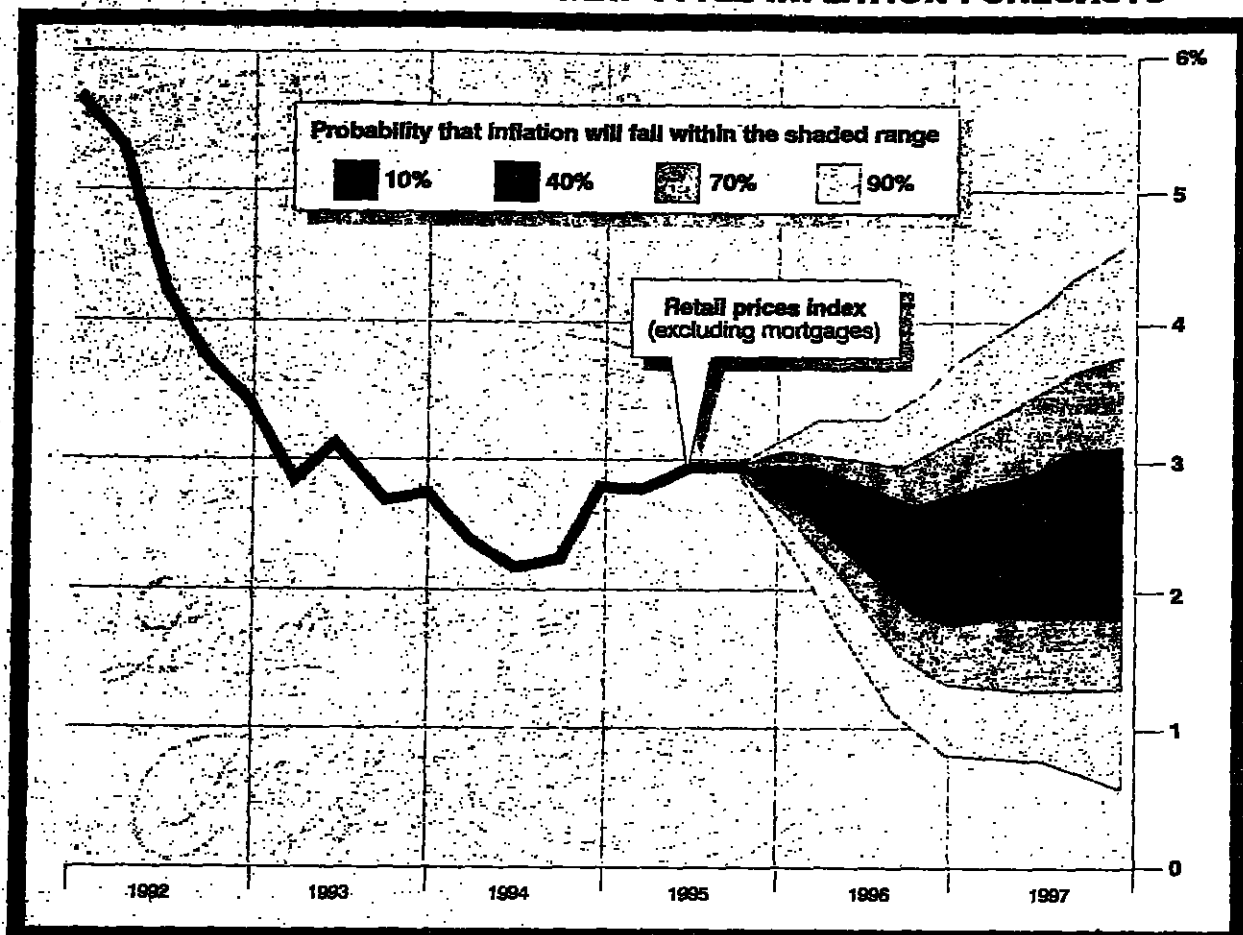
Nevertheless, an economic turnaround will pose a huge challenge to Tony Blair and Labour — not so much at the level of politics as of ideology. As the economy continues to improve, Labour's carping about the way that Britain is falling behind the rest of the world and sliding down various makeshift "league tables" will ring less and less true.

Instead of trying to deny the economic recovery which, I believe, will become increasingly palpable in Britain in the months ahead, Labour should concentrate its fire on what it can do to sustain the expansion and improve on the Tories' economic record.

The Tories' key failures are not connected with training, investment, education or any of the other fashionable "supply side" nostrums. As I have argued repeatedly in these columns, all of the main economic setbacks of the Tory period have stemmed from the Government's incompetence in managing monetary policy and stabilising economic de-

ANATOLE KALETSKY

## THE BANK OF ENGLAND'S NEW-STYLE INFLATION FORECASTS



## Apple vows to shine again without Sun

The desktop computer giant is fighting to survive. Richard Thomson reports

Scott McNealy, head of Sun Microsystems, was asked about his inconclusive takeover talks with Apple, the world's second largest and best-known desktop computer company. Pulling out a shiny red apple he took a large bite. "That's all I have to say," he declared, leaving little doubt that he intends to swallow his struggling rival one day.

Apple has other plans, however, after a dramatic boardroom coup less than two weeks ago. One of Gilbert Amelio's first acts, when he stepped in as chairman and chief executive, was to abort all takeover talks. He intends to go it alone and turn Apple back into a viable business.

Apple, which was in the forefront of personal computer development in the early 1980s, is still a giant. A full-page advertisement in *The New York Times*, part of Mr Amelio's rehabilitation offensive, stated there are about 65 million people in the world using 23 million Apple Mac computers. Many of these are in Britain, one of Apple's largest overseas markets. Apple has a fanatical following, the highest loyalty rate of any computer group, the most reliable machines, and one of the world's top brand names.

Mr Amelio's task looks daunting. Last week Apple warned that losses in the second quarter would exceed the first-quarter loss of \$69 million. Its market share has slumped from 10 per cent to below 7 per cent.

A PC price war has slashed profit margins and the company's shares have fallen from \$50 a few months ago to around \$27. The company's desperate plight is the result of repeated management blunders since the early 1980s when Apple seemed likely to set the industry standard for desktop computers.

In 1984 it made the breakthrough of developing a software so simple that anyone, not just computer experts, felt comfortable with it. The icon, the mouse and the colour computer screen were Apple innovations, introducing the age of point-and-click. But Apple failed to capitalise on its success. It refused to licence the manufacture of its system to anyone else, which meant that, in spite of its huge popularity, it could never be big enough to become the computer industry standard. That crucial prize went to Microsoft and with it, Apple's hopes of domination.

John Sculley, a former Pepsi executive, ousted Steve Jobs, one of the original founders, as chief executive in 1985. But Sculley committed a major error when he sold Microsoft the right to reproduce the

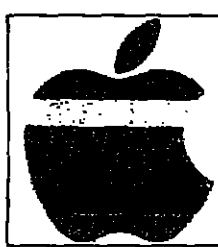
"look and feel" of the Mac, opening the way to copycat programs. When Microsoft brought out Windows in 1990, and last year's updated Windows 95, Apple's technological lead all but vanished.

As Apple's fortunes wilted Sculley was replaced by Michael Spindler. He and Mike Markkula, the chairman and an original investor in Apple, hatched a scheme that led to eventual disaster. Seeing the need to strike back at Microsoft, they decided they needed an alliance with another powerful computer group to give them critical mass in the market place. From 1993 on, despite his denials, Spindler looked for a merger partner. The best he could get was a joint venture deal with IBM that produced the PowerPC, a new generation of Mac machines, but the deal fell apart last year.

Spindler repeatedly rebuffed smaller suitors such as Sun Microsystems but failed to clinch a deal with anyone of size, such as Toshiba or Sony. When IBM did offer more than \$40 a share in 1994, Spindler insisted it was not enough. When Apple's takeover search became public knowledge it hurt sales: potential buyers decided the Mac's future was too uncertain.

Apple has undermined the intense loyalty of existing Mac users. In 1994 it launched the Power Macintosh, run with faster processors but these

## The plight of the Mac is the result of repeated blunders



have proved unreliable, damaging Apple Mac reputation for being less prone to problems than ordinary PCs. A new line of laptops last year harboured an alarming propensity to burst into flames.

As market share dwindled, morale hit rock bottom and several high-level executives departed. Finally, angry shareholders pressed for a change of leadership.

Yet Apple's position still looks precarious. Since there is no hope of challenging Microsoft's dominance, it will have to adapt to the prevailing Microsoft software to survive. But by so doing it risks losing its distinctiveness and the precious Apple brand loyalty. The uncertainty is bound to dampen sales.

Pennington, page 25

## Carl Mortished looks at moves to shake up Shell

## Back to the buccaneering days?

During reflective moments in his office in The Hague, Cornelius Herkströter, chairman of the Royal Dutch/Shell group, might just be able to hear the ghost of Henri Deterding laughing at him.

Back in the early 1900s, Mr Deterding, the Dutch accountant who ran the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company with a ruthless eye for the bottom line, cleverly outmanoeuvred his rival at Shell, the flamboyant Marcus Samuel, and created what has become the world's largest oil company.

Today, Mr Herkströter, another plain-speaking Dutch accountant, is trying to take apart the organisation and reinject into Shell some of the buccaneering spirit of the company's founder. Since the Deterding era, Shell has grown fat with committees, self-satisfied, and burdened with a management structure more appropriate to the last days of the Raj. Until recently, Shell boasted an entire division whose sole function was reporting to head office the activities of the subsidiary companies around the world.

Under Mr Herkströter, the globe-trotting division has been scrapped, the complex matrix that governed managerial decision-making has been abandoned, and a third of the head office staff in London and The Hague face the sack. New reporting structures are flatter and staff are being encouraged to take more responsibility for decisions and play less politics.

In a smaller company, such turmoil might be expected to generate fast rewards for shareholders, or the execution of the revolutionaries. However, Shell is



Herkströter: plain-speaking chairman

too large for such cost cutting to have much effect on the bottom line. Today, the City expects a charge of about £100 million for restructuring, peanuts compared with anticipated 1995 profits of about £4.8 billion. The City is less interested in numbers than signs of imaginative life at Shell Centre on London's South Bank. Slower than rivals in the restructuring game — in part because of its success in raising profits through the recession — Shell has made little progress so far on the job cuts announced a year ago.

A change will be needed if Deterding's child is to stay on top in a world where oil companies find it difficult to make sufficient return to justify huge invest-

ments. Opec has little ability to support the oil price. The Far East, once a gravy train for refiners, is set to lose much of its margin advantage as new plants come on stream. Meanwhile, petrol price wars are eroding downstream earnings in Europe.

However, Shell investors saw little sign of proactive decision-making last year. Humiliated by a clever and sometimes misleading publicity campaign from Greenpeace over the Brent Spar and more recently castigated over its activities in Nigeria, Shell has responded by beating its breast. It recently announced its support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a gesture that would have amused Henri Deterding, a man often accused of having sympathies with the Third Reich.

Shell is often compared to a supertanker in its slowness to respond. Ironically, Shell Oil, the quoted US subsidiary, is displaying the entrepreneurial streak investors would like to see from head office. The top-heavy head office was set up as a resource for the operating companies; a local company such as Shell Malaysia would buy expertise in refining or chemicals from experts in London and The Hague. Such a colonial system now seems inappropriate in a world where technology is widely available and the main issues are convenience and price.

It is fashionable for large groups to dismember themselves in a search for hidden value. Rather than tear itself apart, the group needs to find a way back to its roots and a modern-day Deterding might be more at home wheeling and dealing in local shells with more independence than in the grey towers of Shell Centre.

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## Inspirations plc

(Incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Acts 1985)  
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OF ALL OF THE  
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## Share capital of the Company

Authorised		Issued and fully paid	
Number	Amount	Number	Amount
42,265,000	£4,226,500	31,676,058	£3,167,606
		in ordinary shares of 10p each	

The principal activities of the Company are tour operating, aviation and retail travel agents. Copies of the Exempt Listing Document relating to Inspirations plc may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) from the date of this notice up to and including Friday 16 February 1996 from the Company Announcements Office of the London Stock Exchange, Capel Court entrance, off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 1HP (for collection only) and from the date of this notice up to and including Wednesday 28 February 1996 from:

Beeson Gregory Limited The Registry Royal Mint Court London EC3N 4EY	Barclays Registrars Bourne House 34 Beckenham Road Beckenham Kent BR3 4TU	Inspirations plc 82 St John Street London EC1M 4JN
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and Futures Authority Limited

15 February 1996



## IoD sets out wider view of business

By Philip Bassett  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

COMPANIES should take into account non-financial measures of performance in the running of their businesses, the Institute of Directors said yesterday.

The IoD's insistence that business is not just about relatively short-term financial performance will be seen as a welcome shift by business leaders and others, who argue for a more inclusive approach embracing a wider range of stakeholders — customers, suppliers, employees and the community — as well as shareholders.

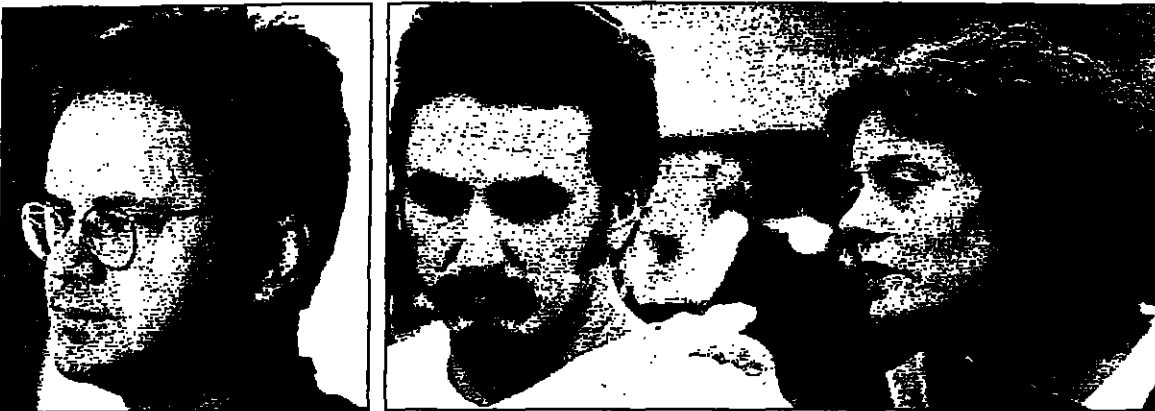
Tim Melville-Ross, director-general of the IoD, said last night that the debate about whether a company should be run in the interests of its shareholders or its stakeholders is essentially false. "We should be devoting our efforts to making both work better in a complementary way, rather than trying to choose falsely between them."

While this is a long way from an endorsement of the stakeholder idea, promoted prominently by Tony Blair, the Labour leader, the IoD accepted that it was also a long way from a rejection of it.

Speaking at Strathclyde University, Mr Melville-Ross said: "We need to develop the view that business is not just about relatively short-term financial performance, but rather long-term shareholder gain, which requires other measures of performance than the purely financial to be taken into account."

Clear responsibilities on boards to maximise long-term returns to their shareholders would benefit all the constituencies of a company, as well as the wider community, he said, while current problems of corporate governance could be addressed by companies changing their behaviour.

Encouraging them to be fair to their customers and focus less on profit maximisation would lead to better corporate behaviour, as well as improved financial performance.



PolyGram line-up: clockwise from top, U2, singer Joan Osborne, and Sean Penn and Susan Sarandon in *Dead Man Walking*, directed by Tim Robbins

## PolyGram would look at any sale of MGM/UA film studio

By Eric Reguly

POLYGRAM, the Anglo-Dutch music and entertainment group, said yesterday that it might bid for MGM/UA, the Hollywood film studio that made *The Wizard of Oz* and *Gone with the Wind*, if the French Government puts it on the auction block this year.

Alain Levy, PolyGram's chief executive, said that an

acquisition was not critical to the success of its relatively new but struggling film business, but noted that any opportunity to make a splash in the industry would be examined.

He said: "If MGM comes for sale, we certainly will look at it. It's a very nice asset. In terms of film assets and in terms of catalogue."

Crédit Lyonnais, the French bank, acquired MGM/UA in 1992 after Giancarlo Piretti, an Italian financier, defaulted on the loans he took out to buy it. The studio and other Crédit Lyonnais assets were transferred recently to a separate company as part of French efforts to rescue the bank.

Under US banking law,

MGM/UA must be sold by May 1997 and it is expected to be put on the market later this year. With recent hits such as *GoldenEye*, the new James Bond film, *Get Shorty* and *Leaving Las Vegas*, the studio's worst days are thought to be behind it. The French government has hired Lazard Frères, the investment banker,

as financial adviser to the MGM/UA sale. PolyGram, as expected, revealed essentially flat earnings in the year to December 31. The results reflected the delayed release of several pop albums, the lack of any blockbuster movie hits, and the strong appreciation of the Dutch guilder, the company's reporting currency. Income from operations edged up 1.4 per cent to 1.08 billion guilders (£426 million) on turnover of Dfl8.8 billion, up 2.3 per cent. Earnings per share were Dfl4.12 (Dfl4.10).

The filmed entertainment division lost 68 million guilders in the year, compared with a loss of 42 million guilders in 1994. The final dividend rises 11.8 per cent to 0.95 guilders.

Jan Cook, the chief financial officer, said that a more promising slate of movie releases, including *Dead Man Walking*, and expected strong growth in the music division should lead to "greater earnings growth this year".

## China pledge on Hong Kong

By David Watts

CHINA will not take a penny in tax out of Hong Kong nor send a civil servant after 1997, China's trade minister promised yesterday.

Madame Wu Yi, Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation, promised that Peking would strictly adhere to its policy of "Hong Kong people running Hong Kong" and the interests of Britain and other investing nations would be safeguarded.

But she admonished British businessmen for being too gentlemanly in going

after business opportunities in China — "you must be more aggressive and not let slip the opportunities," she told a dinner gathering of the China-Britain Trade Group.

In spite of Britain's investment of \$1.86 billion in 1,300 projects in China, this was not in line with the country's status as a world-wide economic power and London was lagging behind the United States and Japan.

But two-way Britain-China trade, which was worth \$476 billion last year,

was 14 per cent up over the previous year.

Congratulatory faxes from Hong Kong businessmen poured in after she wrote an article published in 14 Hong Kong newspapers headlined *The future of Hong Kong will be even more beautiful*.

She noted that the National People's Congress will meet on March 5 to set national economic goals up to the year 2000. She predicted that by that year China would be doing trade of \$400 billion a year, with the sum equally divided between imports and exports.

## Hammerson invests £67m in France

HAMMERSON, the UK property group, is investing £67.2 million in the French property sector. The company has agreed to acquire the freehold of a Paris office complex from Crédit Foncier for £48.4 million. The development is currently let to a French bank and will produce about £6.6 million of rental income a year until the end of next year.

Hammerson said that it planned a major refurbishment of the property on expiry of the lease. The company also announced the purchase of the 34 per cent outstanding minority interest in its Boulevard Haussmann retail and office property from Axa for £18.8 million.

## Thorn wins award

THORN EMI has won the Environmental Reporting Awards sponsored by the Association of Certified Accountants for the second consecutive year. The runner-up was National Power. The judges said entries indicated a higher level of commitment to real target setting on environmental performance and to reporting in quantitative terms. Thorn was praised for the extent of published environmental data. The ACCA announced that, from next year, the awards would be widened to include social and ethical reporting.

## Expansion for Emap

EMAP, the publishing group, has acquired the construction information business of Thomson Corp for £17.7 million. The purchase includes Glenigan, which supplies planning and project leads to the construction industry. Applied Property Research, a seller of on-line research facilities to the commercial property sector, and BMMR, a publisher of costing and estimating information to the building and retail markets. Emap also has an option to purchase Newmarket, Glenigan's Dublin subsidiary.

## Canon earns record

CANON, the Japanese manufacturer of printers and photographic equipment, earned record profits of ¥80.24 billion (£496 million), an increase of 48.9 per cent. Sales in 1995 increased 14.1 per cent to ¥1.23 trillion. Canon attributed the rise to strong sales of personal computer peripherals and of steppers, which are used to make semiconductors. Sales of PC peripherals, including bubble jet printers and laser beam printers, rose 20.7 per cent. Canon expects demand for printers and steppers will stay strong through 1996.

## CPL buys for £5m

CPL Aromas, the aromatic flavours, fragrances and ingredients company, is acquiring Du Crocq Aromatics International for a maximum £5.6 million. Du Crocq is a producer and distributor of fragrances, flavours and aromatic ingredients based in The Netherlands. The acquisition expands CPL's operations in Japan, Italy, Eastern Europe and North Africa. The acquisition will be funded through a placing and open offer of new shares at 350p each, raising £6.9 million. Existing shares rose 23p to 393p.

## Fenchurch warning

SHARES of Fenchurch, the insurance broker, dropped 19p to 125p after it said that trading conditions remained tough and current trends led it to believe that profits in this year would not meet earlier expectations. Rupert Hambro, the chairman of Fenchurch, told shareholders at the annual meeting that the lead time on some international projects might be longer than expected. He added that the departure of a small group from the international division also meant certain income from that area was in doubt.

## Think of the fund manager

Daniel Broby puts the case for giving a higher profile to risk in a company's annual report

Risk, in a single word, sums up a fund manager's daily preoccupation. The primary ingredients in the investment decision-making process, analysis and management, are geared to reducing the standard deviation of returns. Interpretation of financial reports is central to this.

Fund managers cannot always see beyond accounting manipulation, so it is particularly interesting to note that most of the accountants and academics who also contributed to *Financial Reporting 1995-96*, a survey of UK reporting practice by the Institute of Chartered Accountants, joined me in calling for company risk to have a higher profile in company reports.

Many of the claimed failings in financial reporting, apart from the continuing intangible and depreciation debates, can be attributed to a misconception by the company of the decision-making process of the fund manager.

Traditional accounting covers assets and liabilities, as well as revenue and expenditure. Fund managers base their decisions on risk and reward. Accounting does not

yet cover this third dimension adequately.

Great progress has been made on many aspects of risk disclosure and corporate governance. Clearly, not every aspect of the things fund managers would like to see in accounts can be brought into existence by regulation.

The "expectation gap" should be closed by a clear communication of the message, an advantage being the greater the disclosure of financial information, the easier it becomes to raise capital on the primary debt and equity markets.

Although myopic, one of the main preoccupations of a fund manager is earnings per share. Accounting ratios and changes in cash flows are often a secondary consideration. One must ask if this focus is flawed, especially for the purposes of international comparison. The organic growth of a company, for example, may be disguised by adjustments after takeovers.

Defining a single earnings figure for all purposes is bound to fail. The Institute of Investment Management and Research recognises this and suggests that fund managers



Headline earnings can miss the full story, says Daniel Broby

and analysts recalculate the earnings figure on a "headline" basis in accordance with its *Statement of Investment Practice No. 1*. Headline earnings are all very well, but if the very essence of a company is at risk the fund manager must be aware of this. All companies

have limited financial resources. If the cash and liquidity of a company are not well managed, that company could fail. The status of the treasury function provides interesting insights into the business. More detail is required on the management of currency and

interest rate risk in company accounts. It should be clear whether the treasury is a cost or profit centre.

FRS 5, *Reporting the Substance of Transaction*, has gone some way to close the off-balance sheet loopholes which were rife in UK financial reporting.

Redefining earnings and evaluating risk and reward limits a fund manager's time. To help, there are many presentational areas of company reports which could be improved. These include the reporting of the treasury function, the provision of historical information, particularly on share capital, and the contractual obligations of the company, especially in respect of directors' remuneration.

The ASB has eliminated much of the unhelpful reporting practices rife in the past. It should now concentrate on making reporting practices more helpful. Once accounting discloses more on risk, fund managers can then concentrate on the reward side of the equation.

Daniel Broby, head of international research, Quilter Goodison Co, and council member of the Institute of Investment Management and Research, is a contributor to *Financial Reporting 1995-96*, published by Accountancy Books, £63, PO Box 620, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 2HL; telephone: 01908 248000.

## All over bar the need to get back to basics

EVEN at the end of the facts could not be admitted openly and honestly. A joint press release was issued last Monday from the English ICA and CIMA, the management accounting body. "Accountancy bodies publish merger survey results" was its headline. The real story only emerged in the third paragraph. The merger was being abandoned.

This is sad but was always inevitable. The English ICA, over the past decade, has tried to take over just about everyone in sight. The only attempt its members voted for was a merger with the Scots. And then the Scots refused.

The reasons are always the same. The younger end of the membership refuses to countenance sharing the qualification with other bodies. It was precisely the same back in the early 1970s when a grand design to put all six bodies together was scuppered by the same English refusal, as they would see it, to let the others in. Twenty-five years on, the market research produces the same depressing answers. Under the principles seen as "hardest to accept" came 17 per cent who found a stumbling block in the name of the new institute — the Institute of Chartered Accountants, hardly radical.

There were 21 per cent against the new titles and designatory letters, 23 per cent against the change in education and training and 16 per cent against the new organisational structure. The key, as ever, was in the age profile. Under the age of 35 there were 20 per cent in favour and 19 per cent against the idea of merger. Above the age of 50 you had 53 per cent in favour and 46 per cent against. On the surface, the most extraordinary figures were found in the change of view since the last survey. Last year, when English ICA members were surveyed on the broad idea of merger, 67 per cent were in favour. That was a smidgen above the 66 and two-thirds majority that would have been needed to approve the idea. Once the first principles had been published and a new survey carried out last December, the figure had slumped to 36 per cent.

The leaders of the institute had hoped that putting flesh on the bones of the first proposals would raise the number of those in favour. Superficially it would seem to have had precisely the reverse effect. But in fact the first survey had asked questions of the "Have

you stopped beating your wife" variety. Most accountants would agree with the idea of rationalising the profession. The trick is to get them to agree to put that into practice.

In short, the institute secretariat jammed a telescope to its blind eye and pretended quite crazily that, having massaged the results of the first survey, all its dreams of mergers would come true. Quite rightly, members will take the view that the senior people at the institute do not have a clue about what the membership wants. None of them listens except to what they want to hear.

Meanwhile CIMA, with overwhelming support from its members for the merger, has to go back to its own basics of being the pre-eminent body of accountants in business and industry.

Perhaps the more significant event was the quiet announcement from the Scots ICA and CIPFA, the public sector accounting body, that they had signed a reciprocity agreement. In future, members will be able to take a reduced tranche of exams and become members of the other body as well. It is a move which springs from a desire for harmonisation.

The idea could spread to the other accounting bodies. It would mean a lessening of destructive competition. It would mean a growth of co-operation and crucially it would lead, in time, to a blurring at the edges of their differences, particularly in education and training.

It all contrasts quite remarkably with the English institute's lengthy obsession with trying to knock other people's heads together and forging an accounting superbody against every one's will, including their own members. What now needs to happen is for a moratorium to be called. No merger attempts for a decade should be the slogan. After 13 years of having civil servants who love the game of shuffling packets of power this way and that, in charge at the English ICA, perhaps it is time for an accountant to take over. The country's biggest and most influential accounting body could get back to accounting.

The institute needs to build its technical expertise. It needs to do what its members want it to do. They want their institute to be un-exciting but sound. They want it to enhance and expand the reputation and expertise of accounting. That is also what the general public wants and requires.



ROBERT BRUCE

## Self-assessment quid pro quo

THE Chartered Institute of Taxation thinks that we should have a countdown to the dawn of self-assessment. It currently stands at 51 days to go. More worrying is a connection that Gerry Hart, the institute's president, has noticed in the costs. The public relations campaign to tell the world about the change to self-assessment was £5 million. And coincidentally, the estimated cost of the Government's plan to simplify and

rewrite the nation's tax system is also £5 million. The ineffectiveness of the first is not thought to augur well for the second.

## Maas stricture

IT IS always good to hear from the Institute of Indirect Taxation run by the colourful Robert Maas of Blackstone Franks. Their latest comments on the Finance Bill are well up to standard. For example: "We

are puzzled by sub-section 2. It is a novel concept to put Customs & Excise in charge of the protection of the environment. We feel that it ought to stick to the collection of taxes."

## Moscow swabbery

THE insistence on "special payments" before you can get anything done is a common fact of business life in Moscow. The practice started in the upper echelons but is now

trickling down with great effect.

Staff at the Moscow office of one of the Big Six accounting firms were startled recently to encounter the office cleaning staff sitting firmly on their upturned buckets and refusing to budge first thing on a Monday morning.

It turned out that an extraordinary item of £100 a head was required before so much as a current asset would be swabbed.

## Open scholarship

IT MUST be something to do with the new era of openness at KPMG. The new world of reports and accounts and incorporation is having an effect. Either that or it's something they have put in the water. For, excluding an Arthur Andersen interloper at joint third, KPMG students took the top three places in the order of merit for the ICA for England and Wales finals announced last weekend.

ROBERT BRUCE



## Equities trade in narrow limits

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Adnams	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Beck's	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Kaiser	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Reck	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5

## BANKS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Barclays	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
HSBC	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Midland	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
NatWest	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Paragon	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Prudential	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Royal Bank	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Santander	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
TSB	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Yorkshire	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5

## BREWERIES, PUBS &amp; REST

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Adnams	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Beck's	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Kaiser	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Reck	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5

## BUILDING &amp; CONSTRUCT

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Adnams	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Beck's	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Kaiser	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Reck	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5

## BUILDING MATERIALS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Adnams	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Beck's	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Kaiser	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Reck	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5

## CHEMICALS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Adnams	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Beck's	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Kaiser	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Reck	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5

## DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Adnams	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Beck's	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Kaiser	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Reck	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5

## ELECTRICITY

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Adnams	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Beck's	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Kaiser	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Reck	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5

## ELECTRONIC &amp; ELECT

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Adnams	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Beck's	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Kaiser	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Reck	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5

## ENGINEERING

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Adnams	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Beck's	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Kaiser	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Reck	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5

## HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Adnams	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Beck's	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Kaiser	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Reck	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5

## INSURANCE

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Adnams	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Beck's	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Kaiser	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Reck	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5

## ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Adnams	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Beck's	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Kaiser	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Reck	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5

## FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Adnams	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Beck's	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Kaiser	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Reck	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5

## HEALTHCARE

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Adnams	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Beck's	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Kaiser	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Orkla	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Reck	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5

## HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Adnams	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Beck's	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Kaiser	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Miller	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
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Reck	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5

## INSURANCE

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Adnams	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Beck's	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Heineken	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
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Reck	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Stout	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Tennent	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5
Watson	10.50	0.00	4.8	12.5

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

92	Adnams	10.50	0.00	12.5
94	Beck's	10.50	0.00	12.5
96	Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	12.5
98	Heineken	10.50	0.00	12.5
100	Interbrew	10.50	0.00	12.5
102	Adnams	10.50	0.00	12.5
104	Beck's	10.50	0.00	12.5
106	Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	12.5
108	Heineken	10.50	0.00	12.5
110	Interbrew	10.50	0.00	12.5
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114	Beck's	10.50	0.00	12.5
116	Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	12.5
118	Heineken	10.50	0.00	12.5
120	Interbrew	10.50	0.00	12.5



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ANTONIO

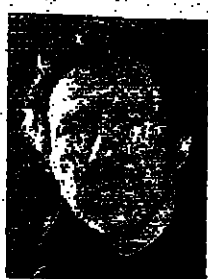
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NOW SHOW





**FILM 1**  
A throw of the dice unleashes the thrills of the jungle for Robin Williams and pals in *Jumanji*



**FILM 2**  
*Ulysses' Gaze* proves to be a Greek urn of pretty pictures and impenetrable layers of allegory

## THE FILMS ARTS



**FILM 3**  
Shakespeare is pumped up for the modern age in Oliver Parker's watchable romp through *Othello*



**FILM 4**  
Only for those with a sweet tooth: *Bed of Roses* carries the whimsical love story to new depths

**CINEMA:** The special effects in *Jumanji* are very impressive, says Geoff Brown, but could lead to tears after bedtime

# Urban jungle not for the tots

Fifteen years ago the American writer and illustrator Chris van Allsburg created the children's book *Jumanji*. He wrote 14 pages of text; he drew 14 full-page black-and-white drawings depicting the turmoil unleashed when unsuspecting children play a dangerous board game. Each throw of the dice brings either a lip-smacking lion, or 12 cowering monkeys, a monsoon and other jungle horrors bounding through the house. There is no escape: the game must be played until the end.

The film *Jumanji* is another matter. Forget for a moment Robin Williams and the other actors, the 20 stuntmen, the director Joe Johnston and his chief technical support. Consider instead the computer army, the wizards of Industrial Light and Magic who prepared the digital effects and spent eight months making the hair on the lion's mane ripple correctly. Although the film, by and large, is effective, you do feel the weight of the extraordinary effort required to turn 14 drawings into a Hollywood spectacular.

The storyline is also much elaborated. After a brief prologue in 1869 we switch a century further on, when the browbeaten son of a shoe factory boss finds the game and gets sucked into the board. We shift again to 1995. Recession has hit; the factory is closed, the boss's house sold. New children uncover the game. Monkeys materialise, then a lion, and a shaggy Robin Williams — the last boy grown up, although his emotions are still in short supply. Now the computer army really gets to work. Each throw of the dice brings a new

**Jumanji**  
Odeon Leicester Square  
PG, 104 mins  
Exhilarating special effects romp

**Ulysses' Gaze**  
Lumiere, PG, 177 mins  
Portentous epic from Theo Angelopoulos

**Othello**  
Odeon Haymarket  
12, 124 mins  
Shakespeare for the multiplexes

**Bed of Roses**  
Plaza, PG, 88 mins  
Willing, whimsical romance

**The Pebble and the Penguin**  
Warner Acton  
U, 74 mins  
Bland animated feature

jungle eruption: the house, the streets and a supermarket become swamped by elephants, rhinos, monstrous plants and a big-game hunter with a nasty temper. Some visitors work better than others. The flood of water rushing down the staircase is thrilling, but the malicious monkeys prove a pest, and the hunter becomes a bore.

The film also frightens more than it might. Where Van Allsburg's cryptic pictures let the terrors expand in our minds, Hollywood thrusts them loudly before us, with possible danger to younger children.

Still, there is something genuinely touching about Williams' man-child lost in a board game for 26 years; and

Bonnie Hunt and youngsters Bradley Pierce and Kirsten Dunst are good company, never mugging at the camera to make their presence felt. Joins and overkill acknowledged, *Jumanji* remains an exhilarating experience.

A sailing boat coloured a delicate blue from mast-head to prow edges its way into a grey harbour. A barge containing a giant dismembered statue of Lenin chugs through the countryside. In the streets of Ptolemais, Greece, crowds bearing torches face crowds bearing umbrellas; elsewhere, fog and snow work their alchemy on the landscape. Time and again in *Ulysses' Gaze*, Theo Angelopoulos renews his credentials as one of the world's most accomplished visual poets.

However, when the film lasts nearly three hours the striking images still leave plenty of spare minutes for mundane matters. Like Harvey Keitel, the ubiquitous actor plays a Greek filmmaker long in America who returns home to begin a search for surviving fragments of the first film shot by the Manaklis brothers, pioneers of Balkan cinema.

The character has no name other than the initial A, and Keitel certainly treats the chap as more symbol than flesh and blood. Wrapped in a black coat, a cross-creased Angelopoulos's images, hoping to recapture the purity of cinema's "first gaze", all the while tangling with duplicate versions of the eternal woman, played by Romania's Maia Morgenstern.

"I don't understand," he bleats with furrowed brow, a pardonable reaction given the director's fondness for crawling events in layers of allegory. *Ulysses' Gaze*, a grand but foolhardy film, tries to handle the present Bosnian conflict, the centenary of cinema, the Greek myth of Ulysses' voyages, and various matters autobiographical (A for Angelopoulos). The pictures, beautiful as they are, cannot stand the strain.

Pardon my language, but I have just seen a poster for *Othello* defaced with the words "Sell-out Negro". This is a harsh judgment on Laurence Fishburne, although you can see how it could arise. First he was plain Larry Fishburne; he played heavies, or figures of conscience from the 'hoods. Then, when critical acclaim came his way, he stretched his first name. Now he's playing Shakespeare.

With his shaved head and smouldering sexuality Fishburne looks magnificent; and for the director, the British actor Oliver Parker, his American nationality is a positive advantage. "Shakespeare," Parker says, "has been too British for too long." Desdemona, consequently, is French, although Irene Jacob's rendering proves unusually dull for the heroine of Kieślowski's *Double Life of Veronique*. And neither player handles the words with the finesse of Kenneth Branagh and the cast's other stalwarts of British theatre. Branagh often grates when he tries to be endearing on screen; but the smiles and deities of his Iago make engrossing viewing.

Parker, for his part, pushes the story along, excising chunks of text, inserting fantasies of Desdemona canoodling, and getting the

best of his Italian locations. For a bravura visual response, Orson Welles's 1952 version outshines all others; but Parker's, uneven cast and all, makes a fair stab at turning the Bard into a decent night out at the multiplex.

"It was probably a clerical error of the floral world," Mary Stuart Masteron muses, faced with an anonymous bouquet in *Bed of Roses*. Unfortunately not the florist, Christian Slater, sent them himself as the first step in a gruesome courtship set in a New York free of graffiti, the homeless and muggers.

Playwright Michael Goldenberg, the writer-director, seems aware of the clichés that dog young couples who fall in love, lose each other, and get back on track. But he falls into them regardless. The performances are pleasing within their small boundaries: the film, however, is redundant whimsy.

The *Pebble and the Penguin* is not much of a title for an animated feature, but at least it identifies the characters' species. When did you last see penguins with waists? Lovely Marina has one; eyelashes too. Hubie, her wooer, voiced by Martin Short, has the nose of a bear, while the physique of his rival (Tim Curry) suggests a Ninja Turtle. They wear clothes, of course: hats, scarves, capes. Well, it's cold in the Antarctic.

But why shoot down this little film from the Irish empire of former Disney artist Don Bluth? It aims at no heights, and reaches none. The animation is adequate, the voice artists competent. It plumps for sap and delivers.

## SNAP VERDICT

Every week on Moviewatch, young film fans discuss new releases. Today's panel comes from Manchester...

### JUMANJI

Patrick Jordan, 23: I've been waiting for this movie for a long time. It was buzzing. It makes *Jurassic Park* look like Legoland. I recommend it.

Judy Shekoni, 18: I disagree. It's good, but it's still a kids' film. Special effects are what make it. Without them it would be standard formula.

Steven Smith, 20: You really were on the edge of your seat waiting to see what happened next. It surprised and scared you. I'm not a big Robin Williams fan but I could watch him in this.

### OTHELLO

Steven: I thought Shakespeare was not going to appeal to me. But this is such a good story. You get involved. This has converted me to Shakespeare.

Helen: I like Shakespeare and thought this was a really good adaptation. Branagh was on top form and Fishburne proved to be a good actor.

Patrick: Not my brew. It might as well have been in Swahili. I don't want to be a culture vulture. It's not for me and my mates.

Judy: It was brilliant. If you couldn't understand all of the dialogue, because it is in Shakespearean language, you could get the meaning from watching the actors' faces.

### ULYSSES' GAZE

Judy: It was awful; the worst film I've ever seen. You don't know what's going on. You sit there bored for three hours.

Steven: It was one of the most boring films I've seen in my life. Nothing happens. Dire.

Helen: Beautiful to look at; gorgeous scenery. But completely confused; you didn't know what it was about.

Patrick: It went over my head. In association with Chapter One's Moviewatch, shown tonight at 6.30pm on Channel 4.



There goes the neighbourhood: with just a throw of the dice in a magical board game, a menagerie of wild animals is let loose to wreak havoc, spread alarm and generally make a mess out of everyone's day in the fantasy spectacular *Jumanji*, with Robin Williams and a megabyte-cast

★★★★ THE NEAREST THING TO 'PULP FICTION' OR 'RESERVOIR DOGS' WE'RE LIKELY TO GET THIS YEAR.

"This dynamite rock'n'rollercoaster of a film will leave your brain dancing a blood-spattered lambada for weeks afterwards."

ANTONIO BANDERAS

He came back to settle the score with someone. Anyone. EVERYONE.

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"A TOUCH OF CLASS"

Eyes, greed, jealousy and love

LAURENCE FISHBURNE, IRENE JACOB, KENNETH BRANAGH

OTHELLO

FROM TOMORROW

ODEON HAYMARKET, WARNER WEST END, ODEON KENSINGTON, ODEON GOSWORTHY, WHITELEYS, Barbican, PHOENIX, RICHMOND FILMHOUSE

AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY



## THEATRE



**The new Young  
Vic Misanthrope.**  
puts contemporary  
fun into Molière  
— and some stylish  
acting, too

— and some stylish acting, too

## A de



**Capital fun but missing the point: Ken Stott as Alceste and Elizabeth McGovern as Jenny in Molière's *The Misanthrope* at the Young Vic**

That question is less insistent here, partly because of the distracting contemporary fun, partly because *Stoik* lacks complexity. He hangs about in his rumpled old bags, but it is hard to take his anger and affections very seriously. Still, he commands the stage.

It is not just nostalgia for that National production which tells me Diana Rigg found more in the role; but anyone can see why McGovern has such a reputation in New York. Her unaffected elegance and mocking charm certainly explain why her friends find Jenny irresistible, even when she is calling them "British ne-

ries of her family she discovers that issues aren't as black and white as she supposed. Her dying grandfather, movingly played by John Woodvine, reveals that what his wife and daughters have dismissed as bigotry has a profoundly churchable base. Her mother (Gabrielle Lloyd) remains anguished by conflicting demands of career and nurturing.

The post-modernist globebooked can be hilarious, and Claire Price's Angela, now angry, now anguished, injects her search with a passionate

wish for understanding.

Chorus

flirt, moving between the classes that Angela Judd attends at university and her home, where all the women are rancorously dominant and the men appear to be either wimpish or sourly repressive. She falls under the sway of Grant Swain, her smoothie lecturer — Jeremy Clyde at his most silver-tongued — who effortlessly converts her to anger at Shakespeare's readiness to make his women proclaim their subservience to men. *The Taming of the*

## Dead White Male

bring sexual satisfaction close  
to cultural excitement.

Shakespeare cannot be easily killed off, however, and the first half ends with the rear wall of Paul Farnsworth's set sliding back to disclose the Forest of Arden at the closing quadruple wedding scene. This magically unexpected moment is *jouissance* indeed.

In the second half Williamson leads the scales against an interpretation of history as patriarchal. As Angela ex-

ries of her family she discovers that issues aren't as black and white as she supposed. Her dying grandfather, moving played by John Woodvine, reveals that what his wife and daughters have dismissed as bigotry has a profoundly charitable base. Her mother (Gabrielle Lloyd) remains anguished by conflicting demands of career and nurturing.


The post-modernist gobbledegook can be hilarious, and Claire Price's Angela, now angry, now anguished, injects her search with a passionate

wish for understanding.

**THEATRE**  
New Young  
*Misanthrope*  
contemporary  
into Molière  
and some stylish  
too

# Molie

# Part IV



Now that is a line hard to match with any in the original. There are plenty of these anonymous sleazy politician

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**BEST MUSICAL**  
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**BRIAN CONLEY**  
**BEST ACTOR**  
**IN A MUSICAL**  
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**BEST SUPPORTING  
ARTISTE  
IN A MUSICAL**  
**JOLSON**  
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EDUCATION

Is the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts teaching showbiz with proper academic rigour?

YOUNG ARTS

Welsh primary schools make efforts to rekindle the traditional love of singing

THE TIMES ARTS

OPERA

Nina Terentjeva's 'cast-iron Amneris' is a redeeming feature of a rough *Aida* at Covent Garden

MUSIC

A brilliant technique, but does Nikolai Demidenko miss the heart of romantic music?

To the fingers via the heart

BARTOK has never — hardly ever — had it so good. Even as Zoltan Kocsis's outstanding complete recorded edition of the piano works is ringing in the ears, fellow Hungarian András Schiff comes to the Wigmore Hall with a three-concert series of Bartók and Haydn.

The same verbal language that gave birth to Bartók's musical language is, of course, also part of Schiff's heritage, as it is with Kocsis. The system of free musical education with which both pianists grew up in Budapest enabled Schiff to absorb Bartók's musical language as naturally as his mother tongue.

As with Janáček, speech seems at times literally metamorphosed into musical tone. And with Schiff's robust yet always supple use of *parlando rubato* — a sort of "speaking" flexibility of phrasing and articulation — the fingers catch every vibration of the human heart.

When Schiff played ten pieces from the second book of *For Children*, he became, for that moment, the child — head on one side, listening intently to the rocking of his own left hand in the Peacock song and most magical of all, straining to catch the distant approach and departure of the Swallow.

Then came the *Dances Suite* of 1923, transcribed from the orchestral score in a teasing kaleidoscope of voices and dialects.

From a dry, raw-throated stamping, touched by strange high notes, to a penultimate dance, there was never a moment of less than richly imagined, full and reverberant sound.

Although shaped to somewhat different ends, the similarly thrilling drama of shifting light, movement and character which Schiff created here, and in the *15 Hungarian Peasant Songs*, animated his Haydn. He played three Sonatas: No 33 in C minor, an urgent and passionate performance, fearlessly explosive with *Sturm und Drang*; No 32 in G minor, with a marvellously free-wheeling and exploratory right hand; and No 60 in C, delighting in the sharp frust of staccato, the bright flash of a spread chord, the sudden hush of unpredictability in development.

The Barbiere was almost as full as the Wigmore Hall for Nikolai Demidenko's Chopin and Schumann recital on Sunday afternoon. It is 11 years since his British debut, and his lack of a more central place in the pantheon of exceptional young pianists may be due to a brilliance of highly drilled technique which enables him to do almost anything while identifying closely with little.

There was not, if truth be told, a world of difference in either sound quality or emotional inflection between his Chopin and his Schumann: *Etudes Symphoniques*. Or even within his Chopin, from an albeit masterly elucidation of the often less than convincing First Sonata to the pair of Nocturnes and the Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise.

There were pianistic wonders aplenty: the lean, lunar beauty of the Nocturne No 7, the string of transparent beads which were the notes of the Andante Spianato. But the human response behind the fingers remained elusive.

HILARY FINCH

Andy Lavender on Liverpool's new 'Fame School', where showbiz dreams get an academic veneer

A degree in living for ever?

Situated on the edge of Toxteth, next to the Anglican Cathedral, the former Liverpool Institute High School for Boys gleams with new paint and new technology. It is now the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, a training centre for the next generation of rock and pop musicians, dancers, producers and their like.

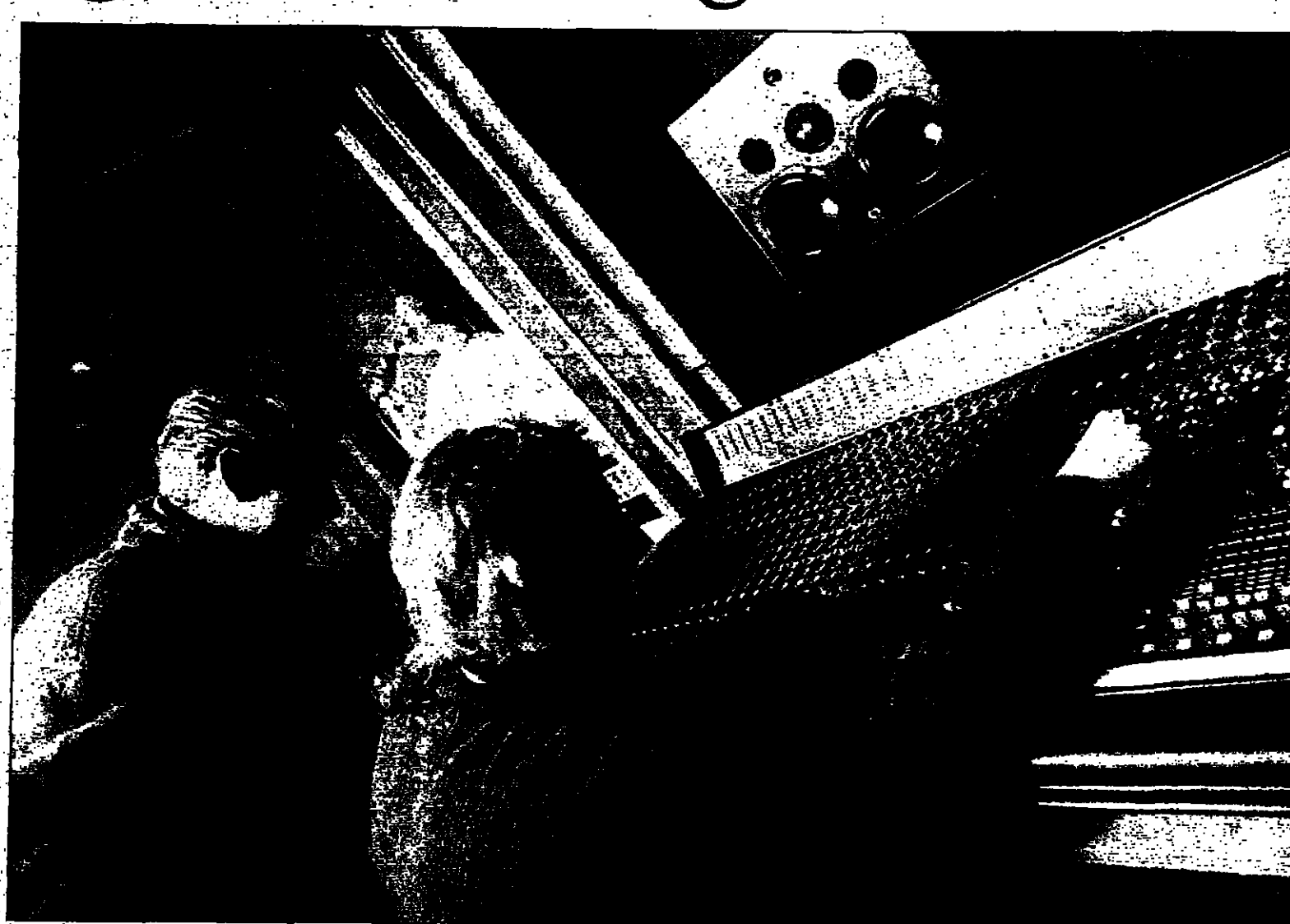
Originally a Mechanics Institute supplying craftsmen to the shipbuilding industry, it subsequently became the grammar school which educated Paul McCartney and George Harrison, only to fall derelict as Britain's inner-city areas began to decay.

McCartney, so, the story goes, could not bear to see his old school suffer such shameful neglect. His interest coincided with the ambitions of Mark Featherstone-Witty to establish a school dedicated to the performing arts. Alarmingly, Featherstone-Witty was inspired by Alan Parker's 1980 film *Fame* about New York's High School for the Performing Arts.

"I visited the school," he says, "and the things which most attracted me were the sheer energy, the positiveness and the enthusiasm." His idea for a British version was slightly different, however: this would be a place where students could attain "proficiency in a variety of fields", including the innermost workings of their chosen industry.

In January — more than 15 years later — and with money from McCartney, various other private donations or sponsorships, and some public funding — LIPA opened its doors to about 180 students studying a three-year degree. They have the run of a fine building, which looks magisterially and streets of Liverpool. Many of the school's existing features have been retained.

Four large wrought-iron gates stand in the main foyer, and you pass through these to the Paul McCartney Auditorium, a plush 530-seat theatre in what used to be the school hall. The old art room is now a dance studio with a sprung floor. There are other performance studios, high-specification recording studios, and more than 30 sound-proofed music practice rooms. When you tire of composing your masterpiece, you can take a break in the brightly-coloured cafe, adorned with photographs by Linda McCartney.



In the mix: music students at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts get to grips with some of the school's state-of-the-art recording facilities

Another striking feature is all the talk about "academic rigour". Why should LIPA bother with such a thing? The answer comes down to prestige — and, of course, money. The burgeoning arts-education sector is highly competitive, and students are attracted to the idea of an institution offering a degree programme, students are able to receive mandatory grants from their local authorities.

LIPA's degree programmes are validated by Liverpool's John Moores University. What does their academic content amount to? One central component is "contextual studies", a three-year course which takes in such things as "performing arts in the 20th century" (a historical and aesthetic survey) and "cultural

realpolitik" (the pragmatics of the entertainment business). Only time will tell how rigorous these courses are.

If you are used to more traditional ideas of education, however, your jaw will drop when you walk into the "resource centre" library, to the less avant-garde and see the periodicals scattered on the table — *GO*, *Esquire*, *Empire* and *Q*. It will gape when you hear the students talking apprehensively of their tough assignment at the end of the first year: a 2,000 word essay.

Of course, students of contemporary culture must know what is in this month's *GO*, but the suspicion remains that LIPA takes the industries it serves at face value, rather than treating them with analytical scrutiny.

On the other hand, where else in the country can you take a degree in a brand new subject such as community arts, enterprise management or performance design? Unfortunately, I was unable to learn anything about these exciting new areas on the day of my visit. The afternoon included classes in keyboard composition and dance, while a number of students were diligently tapping away in isolation in the music studios or at the computers in the resource centre.

Ken O'Donoghue, chief librarian, in an older tongue, talks about "moving away from a traditional learning centre" and towards "an accessing system for multi-media material. The main remit is providing access to the Internet."

LIPA is modern in other ways, too. "We formed a strategic alliance with Cable North West," O'Donoghue remarks, "so that we can let students access their work here from their own rooms." (If they have their own computers, that is.)

LIPA has formed a number of other alliances with businesses, none more strategic than that with Grundig, whose name appears everywhere LIPA's does. Indeed, the institute would never have seen the light of day had it not been for the input of various businesses and corporations, and the whole enterprise is a model of the mixed private and public-sector financing so prized in recent years.

The sponsors' names are in evidence throughout. Moreover, LIPA takes many of its overseas students from coun-

tries whose companies provide sponsorship. Can an educational establishment have too many an eye for business? You might argue, after all, that LIPA teaches its students how to hone their cynicism as well as their creativity. "I wouldn't say cynicism," Featherstone-Witty counters, "as much as being streetwise."

"The thing that all governments accept is that growth will come from the small and medium-sized enterprises," he says. "We have a programme here which will allow that to happen, and we expect students to have enough skill and indeed confidence when they leave to start up their own touring companies, their own record labels, their own bands. As a country, and as a culture, we all need to go out there and start something very exciting."

OPERA

House of louds

WHEN Nicholas Payne stepped out before the start of *Aida* to thank us all for coming to the theatre instead of staying at home to watch *The House* and to apologise for the non-appearance of Julia Varady because of an attack of bronchitis, a stentorian voice from the auditorium suggested that this was not the whole truth. Perish the thought — surely no more true than suggesting that "Varady" is Romanian for "cancel".

So Andrea Gruber made her house debut in the title role a week early. She is the latest in a line of robust young American sopranos tackling the heroic Italian repertory. She sang her first operatic role only five years ago in Glasgow — the *Forza Leonora* — and hugely promising it was too. Her soprano is full and rich, with a good *spinto* edge. Good

*Aida*  
Covent Garden

words, good breath control, and a good presence; she feels the role. But she seldom sings at less than forte, and you felt in the finale — surely the loudest in living memory — that she and her lower died less from slow suffocation than from perforated ear-drums.

Her Radames was another house debutant, the South African tenor Sidwell Hartman. There is plenty of *forza* at the top of his *tenore di forza* and when he hits a high note that he likes, he tends to hang on to it. A little more vibrato might help his tone sit more squarely on the centre of the notes, but any tenor who can sing Radames so confidently gets my vote.

Perhaps a conductor less lightweight than Jan Latham-Koenig might have persuaded both to sing with more variety and dynamic, but Gregory Yurishch gave as musical and smoothly phrased an Amnaro as you could hope to hear. His was the performance of the evening, though I have a sneaking regard for Nina Terentjeva's cast-iron Amneris, like Joan Crawford at her best.

This was a pretty rough and ready performance, and while *Aida* can survive more or less anything, it was a close-run thing.

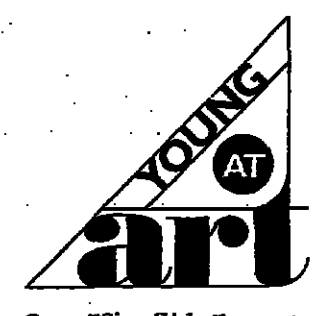
RODNEY MILNES

Chorus of approval from the valleys

Welsh children are making two great discoveries — singing, and the Welsh language. Hilary Finch reports



Pupils of Ysgol Coed y Gof, Cardiff, in full voice



Corn ("Sing Wales"), was to bring together all primary schoolchildren to sing with the orchestra, meanwhile infiltrating their schools with learning materials, songs and tapes. South Wales first: the entire region from Pembrokeshire to Gwent, from Aberavenny to Barry Island would be invited to a concert of music influenced by British folksong, from Vaughan Williams to Peter Maxwell Davies; and the children would perform an arrangement by the young composer Gareth Glyn, of Grace Williams's *Fantasia on Welsh Nursery Tunes*. On February 27, in the morning and afternoon, 2,000 10 and 11-year-olds will fill St David's Hall in Cardiff for two concerts. There are no seats left: 120 schools had to be turned down.

At Romilly Primary in Barry, the very school where Grace Williams's father was music master, the children learn Welsh for just 20 minutes once a fortnight. Music teaching has all but vanished since the deputy head moved on last year. Romilly's head, Robert Williams, is now beaming with pride at a hall full of ten-year-olds belting out *Daw Mam yn Dwad*, word-perfect, note-perfect.

which both are now compulsory, yet neither is nourished any longer by the chapel and community life.

Welsh language teaching is at least being supported by a strong body of material published by the Welsh Office. But there is no comparable resource bank for music teaching. So the BBC National

Orchestra of Wales which, under Helena Braithwaite, its indefatigable education and community officer, is engaged in outreach projects throughout the country, has taken the initiative in trying to revitalise Welsh language and Welsh music from its central point of focus, Welsh song.

The idea behind *Cymry'n*

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Casualty of criticism or literary dinosaur? Ian McIntyre examines the early years of *The Good Soldier's* author

Ford: victim of his own accessibility

## The name-change artist

FORD MADOX FORD  
A Dual Life  
Vol. I: The World Before the War  
By Max Saunders  
OUP, £35

This is the second substantial life of Ford Madox Ford to appear in six years. Max Saunders calls Alan Judd's biography, published in 1990, "novelistic". As Judd's earlier books were all novels, I take that to be descriptive rather than pejorative.

On looking again at Judd's stylishly written life, however, I see that in the most elegant way imaginable he actually got his retaliation in first: "To scholars who may regret the lack of more detailed references and footnotes, I can only say that I regret any inconvenience; since the lack is deliberate, to say more would be insincere. I wanted to write a book in which the spirit of its subject could be at ease."

That's an unusual ambition for a biographer, but it poses a subtle challenge to his successors. It will not be possible for some time to judge how well Saunders meets it. Reviewing the first part of a two-volume biography is a bit like writing a half-term report, particularly when it is the author's first essay in biography.

Saunders acknowledges that his subject's virtues are not academic — conceding that Ford became "a casualty of the academic guardianship of literature". His works, he writes, "are too readable to need the

industries of explicators and annotators". As an academic he might seem to be digging a formidable water-jump both for himself and for his academic publisher.

The first ten words of his introduction suggest he is going to clear it with assurance. Is there a literary prize for the best opening sentence of the year? If so, Saunders should certainly make the shortlist. "Ford Madox Ford," he writes, "was born in June 1899, aged 45."

The promise, alas, is not sustained. Saunders plunges immediately into considering why Ford Hermann Hueffer, having already partly anglicised his name to Ford Madox Hueffer in 1915, felt obliged to indulge in a further flurry of deed-polling only four years later. The writing quickly becomes extremely dense. "Although Ford's change of name may register the wish, or the need, to escape," we read, "it also

recognises the impossibility of escaping, revisiting as it does its origin, and re-creating the self in its own image." He later continues: "The memorable doubleness of name juxtaposes, as literary biography must, the 'true truth' of the personality enshrined in the oeuvre with the archival truths about the artist's person to which that personality cannot be reduced."

This first volume carries the story up to Ford's departure for the war in 1916. It covers his conversion to Catholicism and his elopement with Elsie Martindale, his founding of *The English Review* and his relationship with Violet Hunt, his various nervous collapses and his involvement with the Vorticists and Imagists.

Saunders catalogues Ford's claims on our attention. He believes he wrote some of the best English prose of the century and that he was the century's greatest literary editor. "His energies of creativity and encouragement," he asserts, "changed the course of English and American literature."

These are large claims — almost as large as Rebecca West's insistence that his prewar novel *The Good Soldier* "set the pattern for perhaps half the novels which have been written since". (West was writing in 1927. Saunders, whose own analysis of

the book extends to 59 pages, believes that she was "only slightly exaggerating".)

Saunders has been able to draw on material not available to earlier biographers. An unpublished novel has come to light, 90 or more unrecorded periodical pieces and a batch of letters from Ford to a previously unknown lover. There is also much fresh information in recent biographies of members of Ford's circle and in their published correspondence — Conrad, Rhys, Lawrence, Caroline Gordon.

Anyone intimidated by a work conceived on this scale could limber up by sampling the index, where some of the entries are extremely entertaining — "Shaw, George Bernard: advises Ford to get an artificial British conscience", "Pound, Ezra: makes descent into hell by falling through stage".

Some of those about Ford read like cod captions for cartoons — by Bateman, perhaps, or the early Heath Robinson: "bus crash with Arnold Bennett", "inherits Rossetti's Inverness cape", "watches chimney sweep from Basel widow". My favourite is "makes cutting speech to German waiter (who kills himself)".

It would be nice if some of this stylistic leaven spilled over into the text of Volume II. As he works, Saunders should repeat to himself what Pound in his obituary said about Ford's prose — "it lay so natural on the page that one didn't notice it".

## A tale told by a toad

THE NATTERJACK is a rare and curious British toad, distinguished for its agility. This is a novel narrated by a human natterjack, a work as rare and curious as its eponymous toad.

On one level, *Natterjack* is the autobiography of one R. T. Shearer. He tells us of a strange childhood in Spain, of his days at a Scottish public school and of the friend he made there, MacBeth. We pass with him through university and on to his joining MacBeth's family firm in Edinburgh. He is married, divorced. The firm thrives. It over-expands. Shearer guides the firm to calmer waters and himself to retirement back in Spain.

In this sense, *Natterjack* is a straightforward bildungsroman. Shearer learns as he ages what might lie beyond the "edgic beating of a soul alone". Yet Niall Duthie dresses these bare bones with the intensity of Shearer's introduction, his "emotional extrusion, a ghostly secret hernia". For this alone the novel would be remarkable. But there is also a searing and searching analysis of love: love found

Ross Leckie

NATTERJACK  
By Niall Duthie  
Faber, £8.99, ppb original

then lost, love never found, love "chosen for its very hopelessness".

As if this were not enough, Duthie weaves into the narrative a compelling study of words. What is the difference between description and definition? Where are words, he makes us ask, within "anosis", that hypothetical state of consciousness in which there is sensation, but no thought?

All this Duthie conveys in quite extraordinary prose. Duthie is a semantic acrobat, although his search for the striking leads him sometimes to pile fiction on Ossa. Readers will have to separate their splanchnics from their stills and acknowledge agonist aestheticians.

YET DUTHIE has a sure hand with character, from the bibulous fund manager, Duncan, who sacks an assistant "because his young wife had an ectopic pregnancy", to Shearer's first fiancée Iris, who might have "joined loneliness and rank laundry baskets as assistant matron in a genteel girls' school".

The task that Duthie sets himself in his second novel is great. The ambition is worthy of Macbeth and the tale no less salutary. It resonates Carey's *Illywhacker* or O'Brien's *At Swim Two Birds* or Eco's *Foucault's Pendulum* and yet remains entirely sui generis: utterly, if remorselessly, its own.

## Made by arts of war and peace

Born in 1895, David Jones witnessed some of the most exciting developments of modernism. Yet now he is often viewed as an eccentric, somewhat anachronistic figure — a visionary drifting among obsolete cultural jetties, lost in a world of myth and the narratives of a vanished historical past. Although he was respected in his lifetime, since his death in 1974 Jones has often been marginalised by the critical establishment.

These two volumes, published to mark Jones's centenary, will do much to re-establish the reputation of this English painter-poet. Through the exploration of his visual work in relation to his life story, they expose the lineaments and patterns of an intensely original mind. Jones was encouraged to draw by his parents at an early age and, showing a certain precocious talent, enrolled at Camberwell Art School at the age of 14. However, it was his experiences as a 19-year-old infantryman in the First World War

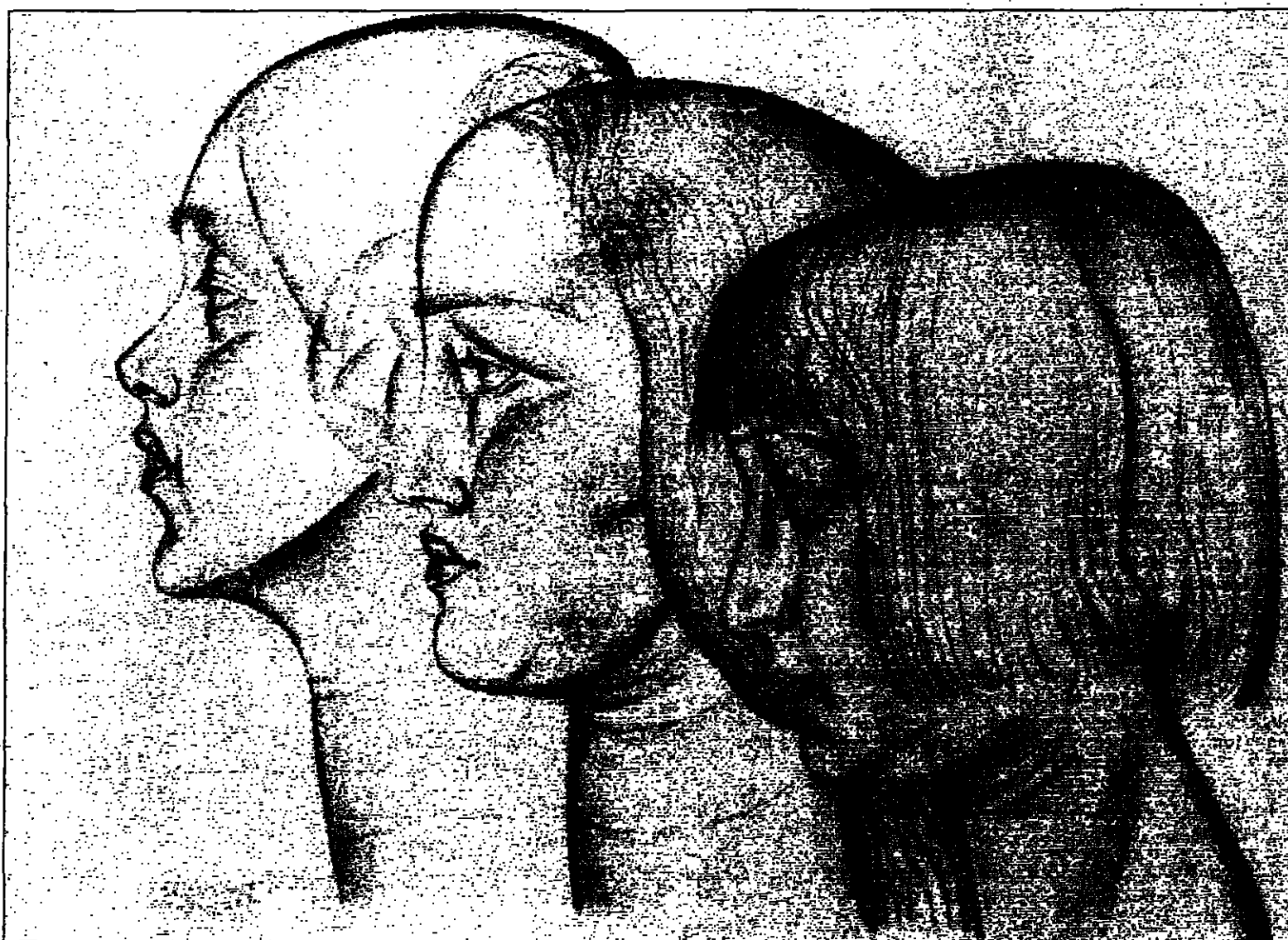
Rachel Campbell-Johnston

DAVID JONES  
A Fusilier at the Front  
By Anthony Hyne  
Seren, £14.95

DAVID JONES  
The Maker Unmade  
By Jonathan Miles and Derek Shiel  
Seren, £20.95

which were to make the first deep impact upon his work.

In *A Fusilier at the Front* Jones's nephew, Anthony Hyne, gathers together all the surviving drawings from his uncle's wartime notebooks. These sketches, each displayed opposite selected extracts from Jones's 1937 prose-poem *In Parenthesis*, and from his letters and journals, build up into a moving portrait of his time in a Winchester training camp, in the killing fields of France, and in Limerick where he was posted after his collapse from trench fever. The rats, the wintry bleakness, the

Elizabeth, Petra and Joanna Gill (1924, watercolour and pencil): a gift for their parents, Eric and Mary Gill (David Jones: *The Maker Unmade*)

devastation and the misery are all evoked with a veracity and a tender intimacy. It is those things which are wounded, Jones was later to write, "which are most worthy of our worship".

David Jones: *The Maker Unmade* also begins with a chapter on Jones's wartime experiences. But the volume

goes on to set this in the much wider context of his later life and development. It takes the reader through Jones's post-war years at Westminster School of Art, exploring his gradual engagement with international trends in painting. It traces his developing relationship with Eric Gill, his strengthening belief in the

Roman Catholic faith and the gradual convergence of his aesthetic and religious ideas. It teases out the strands of an imagination which clung to the steep slope of time, haunted by the heroes both of classical and Celtic myth. Gradually, as these differing influences weave and interweave, the shifting patterns of

a multifarious mind emerge more clearly.

At times the analysis of individual works seems tortuous and the flow of the text grows clogged with detail. But the accompanying illustrations are excellent. Jones's paintings are exquisitely delicate. Images fluttering through webs of spindly lines

are daintily licked by limpid colour. The wealth and quality of the reproductions in this book capture the finer details of such works and convey the wide range of Jones's output, from his earliest naturalistic landscapes to the simplicity of his later engravings in which he explored the abstract potential of letter forms.

## THE TIMES

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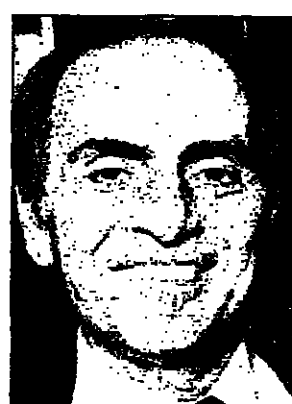
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## Try a close encounter with truth

Richard Dawkins

THE DEMON-HAUNTED WORLD  
Science as a Candle in the Dark  
By Carl Sagan  
Headline, £18.99



Sagan: Earth's ambassador?

double standard. When *The Daily Telegraph* reported a survey finding that a high percentage of adults think the Sun goes round the Earth, the then Editor inserted, "Doesn't it? Ed." If a survey found that 50 per cent of adults believe Shakespeare wrote *The Iliad*, what Editor would find it funny to insert a parenthetical "Didn't he? Ed." That's the double standard.

When the aggressive habits of rotifers were being excitedly promoted by the news media a while ago, the responsible government minister went on the radio to reveal the disturbing extent of the problem. Dogs, she explained patiently, don't have DNA. Ignorance on such a scale would not be countenanced in a minister of the Crown, were the subject anything other than science.

Among the gifts science has to offer is, in Sagan's words, a balcony detection kit. Here is how to test the credentials of the superhuman extraterrestrials who swarm to Earth to abduct humans for sexual experiments to the victims' "glorie".

considerable profit when they sell their stories to the press: "Occasionally, I get a letter from someone who is in 'contact' with extraterrestrials. I am invited to 'ask them anything'. And so over the years I've prepared a little list of questions. The extraterrestrials are very advanced thinkers. So I ask things like, 'Please provide a short proof of Fermat's Last Theorem'. ... I never get an answer. On the other hand, if I ask something like 'Should we be good?' I almost always get an answer. Anything vague, especially involving conventional moral judgments, these aliens are extremely happy to respond to. But on anything specific, where there is a chance to find out if they actually know anything beyond what most humans know, there is, only silence."

Scientists are sometimes suspected of arrogance. Sagan commends to us by contrast the humility of the Roman Catholic Church which, as early as 1992, was ready to grant a pardon to Galileo and admit publicly that the Earth does indeed revolve around the Sun. We must hope that this outspoken magnanimity will not cause any offence or "hurt" to "the supreme religious authority of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Abdel-Aziz, Ibn Baaz" who, according to Sagan, in 1993 "issued an edict, or fatwa, declaring that the world is flat. Anyone of the round persuasion does not believe in God and should be punished." Arrogance? Scientists are amateurs in arrogance.

Moreover, they have a modicum to be arrogant about. Scientists "can routinely predict a solar eclipse to the minute, a millennium in advance. You can go to the witch doctor to lift the spell that causes your pernicious anaemia, or you can take Vitamin B12. If you want to save your child from polio, you can pray or you can inoculate. If you're interested in the sex of your unborn child, you can consult plumb-tob dangles all you want... but they'll be right, on average, only one time in two. If you want real accuracy... try amniocentesis and sonograms. Try science."

I wish I had written *The Demon-Haunted World*. Having failed to do so, the least I can do is press it upon my friends. Please read this book.

Richard Dawkins is the first holder of Oxford's Charles Simonyi Chair in the Public Understanding of Science. His new book, *Climbing Mount Improbable*, will be published by Viking in August.

## Walls of words

DALE PECK'S second novel will not cause the sensation of his first. By according to his British publisher's decision to title his debut *Fucking Martin*, Peck ensured a flurry of hankie-waving publicity, and a discussion not so much about literature as marketing.

So it is up to the soberly named *The Law of Enclosures* to reveal his true worth. This is a novel divided in three. The first and third sections give us Beatrice and Henry, parents of John and Susan. Peck has brought them on from his first work. They show Beatrice and Henry's courtship, which has the air of

a battle fought against the tumour growing on Henry's skull and from which he believes he will die, and their unhappy, middle-aged marriage, run down into drink and pills and affairs.

Enclosed by the borders of suburban Long Island and divided by the highways that measure time and space in that world, the transformation of their love remains a mysterious process — despite, or perhaps because of, Peck's efforts to pin it down with the brute force of his language.

This, of course, may be the point. Peck's work could be offered as proof that we can never know anything; we can only break down events into smaller and smaller components and then describe what we see. In this kind of writing, nothing is left out, from the details of a sexual encounter to the proper brand of mouthwash, and one is left concerned that the author believes

The central section is an extended meditation on Peck's own parents: the particular as a focusing lens for the general. In many ways the book is strongest here: Peck allows himself some distance from the everyday and the result is often very fine indeed. His encounter with his mother in heaven ("Really, Dale, those gates were a bit much, don't you think?") is both liberating and reassuring.

But the three sections do not interact, and the central section does nothing so much as reveal the weaknesses of what surrounds it. There is an emptiness here. It isn't enough to dissect a love affair and lay out its shrivelled organs on a porcelain table for examination. The violent ending seems a last-gasp rush for plot.

"If you could touch it you believed you could know it: you believed that everything you touched was everything that could be known, and this knowledge was your small defence against an inhospitable world."

THESE FEW lines, taken from the novel's centre — the you in question is Peck's father — could be the author's credo. For all its flaws, *The Law of Enclosures* is a powerful physical novel, its precise, unflinching prose able to convey bodily experience so clearly that the text seems to have as much sex as texture. And yet this skill may be Peck's downfall, drawing him away from story and character into a cul-de-sac of his own writing.

Erica Wagner

THE LAW OF ENCLOSURES  
By Dale Peck  
Chatto & Windus, £15.99



## MOD

## MOH

2. In *Shakespeare*, vulgar; mean; common. Tithes, such as we present *modern* friends withal. *Shakespeare*. The justice. With eyes severe and beard of formal cut. Full of wit laws and *modern* influences. *Shakespeare*. We have our philosophical persons to make *modern* and familiar things supernatural and caudate. *Shakespeare*. *MODERN*, *n.* /- Those who have lived lately, apposed to the ancients. There are *moderns* who, with a slight variation, adopt the opinion of Plato. *Boyle as Colours*. Some by old words to fame have made pretence; Ancients in phrase, mere *moderns* in their sense. *Pope*. *MODERNISM*, *n.* /- [from *modern*] Deviation from the ancient and classical manner. A word invented by Swift. Scribbles fend us over their trash in prose and verse, with abominable curtailings and quaint *modernisms*. *Swift*. *TO MODERNISE*, *v.* /- [from *modern*] To adapt ancient compositions to modern persons or things; to change ancient to modern language. *MODIST*, *adj.* [from *modern*, *Fr. modern*, Latin.] *MODIST*, *n.* /- [from *modern*] Novelties. *Not arrogant, not presumptuous, not boastful; helpful.* *Of boasting more than of a tomb afraid; A soldier should be *modest* as a maid.* *Young*. *Not impudent; not forward.* *Rebuke me with all *modest* hafts, which way Thy might *modest*, for they impale this stage.* *Shakespeare*.

Johnson's Dictionary will be appearing next month from Cambridge University Press on CD-Rom: above, from the first edition

## The language what we speak

The blurb on the colourful jacket makes crafty use of two adjectives always brought together in advertising, as in "New research uncovers the real cause of flu".

This latest grammar has "ground-breaking new authority" based on the evidence of real English. Neither word reappears inside the sober hard cover, which states merely that this is "The Oxford English Grammar". Nevertheless, those words on the jacket have done their work. This grammar is real because it's new, and new because it's real. In a media situation today you can't have the one without the other. A new vice-chancellor once famously drew the attention of his students and staff to "the real world outside the university". "Real English", like Real Ale, makes a similar recognition of the authentic: Real English has no truck with the academic worlds of Correct English, or even Standard English. Real English is in the Real World.

Yet one cannot blame Professor Greenbaum for putting forth his wares in this fashion. A new grammar must have something new to tell us about our language. Since William Butler Yeats brought the first English Grammar out in 1930, in order to demonstrate that the structure of English could be parsed and analysed in the same way as Latin, there have been a very great number of English Grammars: in fact a total of 112, between the years 1800. Now that the millennium impends, something new in that line seems called for. Professor Greenbaum seems just the right man and the right expert to supply it, and the OUP are clearly the proper publishers.

And so we have a work that admirably combines a traditional exposition of grammar and morphology with contemporary exemplification, and is equally authoritative on American English, British English, Standard, Correct,

Colloquial, Pidgin, Creole... keeping with the best modern practice it does not propose any judgments. Indeed that word "Real" has already implied an absence of judgment, if only because each different English-speaking nationality, or class, will naturally locate linguistic reality within its own field of spoken and written experience.

Exposition is clear and effective. Examples illustrating usage and parts of speech are not made up, as in the old-fashioned style of grammar, but supplied by quotes from novels or the newspapers, political speeches, radio soundbites and television scripts. Nothing more real than those, no doubt, and the results are illuminating, and sometimes inadvertently comic. In Section 35: *Person, Number, Gender, Case*, some interesting points arise in connection with the perils of the first person plural.

This may involve "persons in situations of unequal relationship, a doctor speaking to a patient or a teacher to a student. The intention is to convey a friendly tone, though it is increasingly regarded by some as patronising". (That puts us on the cutting edge of real, or contemporary, grammar?) Examples: *We'll just check your blood pressure. Nigel you couldn't give us a hand, could you? Let's not get touchy. In British English the we plural is often replaced by one, usually by speakers of the upper social classes or in argumentative spoken or written contexts.* Example: *And one has to say straightaway I won't say it again during this programme but all three who've just spoken are active supporters of the Labour Party.*

"One" may begin to feel that Real, or modern, English grammar exists primarily to define the nice-

ties and nuances of class, status, and gender. Is Greenbaum unduly interested in grammar as a give-away? But to every recorded usage he extends the same deadpan courtesy. He is especially gentle with rubble grammar, as it might be termed. *With regard to, as to whether, and whether or not (she was going to tell me whether or not she could do the following week) are equally acceptable, as are Whom should I speak to and That's the woman what told me.*

So let's take it all on board. Is the glory of our grammar its inherent instability? Instability does not necessarily mean linguistic anarchy, for as Noam Chomsky maintained by making a distinction

between "Competence English" and "Performance English", language flourishes best when not just used, but consciously explored, played with, freshly imagined.

Hamlet and Shakespeare broke all the rules and cheerfully took arms against a sea of possible linguistic troubles.

Following Chomsky, Greenbaum differentiates between Correct English, of the sort that Fowler and his more permissive followers would recognise, and Good English, which means the full use of the resources available to the language. In the Reith lectures this year another Professor, Jean Aitchison, maintained, possibly with one eye on political correctness, that "British English was not changing for the worse, as some people argue". She was, in fact, defending the unstable liveliness of Good or Performance English, which takes double negatives, mixed cases and split infinitives in its stride, just as it did in Shakespeare's day. But her views were sharply criticised by supporters of what might be called the New

Educational Correctness, who want schools both to teach the basics of grammar and to require their observance.

The whole notion of "teaching" grammar is bound to be equivocal: it gets learnt from books rather than grammars. Shakespeare was made to learn Latin but not English grammar, and Latin does instil a feeling for linguistic structure in the native tongue, though it did not stop Shakespeare mixing his metaphors in many a magnificently chaotic line. The way to learn to speak and to write Good English, as opposed to the merely Correct kind, is to read it, and to read it continually. It is not so much the failure of schools to teach grammar as their failure to encourage the habit of reading which jeopardises performance skills in English.

Even Fowler had ultimately to concede that a good writer cannot write bad English. When T.S. Eliot lectured to an audience of academic Frenchmen, and told them that D.H. Lawrence *écrit extrêmement mal*, he was probably deferring to the Gallic love of linguistic correctness. Lawrence, in his own fashion, wrote not only good English but some of the best. At a humbler linguistic level Fowler himself admitted that Conan Doyle had been right to split the infinitive when he made Sherlock Holmes say: "I failed to entirely stop the attack, Watson". Verbal positioning in Good English is more important than the rules.

The worst of Greenbaum is his silence on the subject of Bad English, a silence which suggests by implication that it cannot exist. It can, but it has little to do with bad grammar. Otherwise it is real enough and lives mostly on Radio 4. Apart from Professor Aitchison, few would dispute that BBC cliché, and the wish to be chummy and non-judgmental, get worse every day. Better switch off Real English and open our books.

## Derwent May on the life of an unromantic romantic

## Germination of greatness

Emile Zola's father — an Italian engineer who began life as Francesco Zola — designed and gave his name to a dam above Aix-en-Provence that would channel the turbulent mountain waters down to the countryside below. Emile Zola went on to channel the violent life of Second Empire France into a series of 20 astonishing novels. Now Frederick Brown has written a biography of Zola in which his life, in turn, bounds vigorously along, always noisy and sparkling.

Zola's father never saw his dam come to completion. Emile, who was born in 1840, was only seven when his father died of pleurisy, just as the blasting of the mountain was beginning. He and his mother, a Parisian, went back to the capital, and for the rest of her life his mother was engaged in fruitless legal battles to get money out of the directors of the Zola Canal Company, just like the old woman in *Bleak House* who waits for the settlement of the Jarndyce case.

Was the energy that her son so soon began to display nursed by his desire to "rescue" her? Frederick Brown thinks so. At any rate, at the age of 21 he began work packaging books for the biggest French publisher in the 1860s, Hachette. In no time this stocky young man had become Hachette's publicity manager, started

meeting writers and begun to contribute literary articles to newspapers. At 23 he was already dissociating himself from romanticism, and arguing the creed of the naturalist movement of which he was destined to become the giant figure: "I would bid farewell to the lovely lies of mythology... I would borrow from science its broad horizons."

He first attracted attention as a mordant critic, savaging novels, plays and comic operas (Offenbach's *La Belle Hélène* was a display of "gutter wit and gestures," he wrote). In 1867 he published his novel of the Paris underworld, *Thérèse Raquin*, about a woman who kills her husband and is eaten away by guilt, which conservative critics

flayed as *literature putrid*. But by now Zola had already sketched out his life's work. It was to be a vast family history, at first in ten and later in 20 novels, encompassing all aspects of the new bourgeois France, and founded on what Zola took to be

ZOLA  
A Life  
By Frederick Brown  
Macmillan, £25

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guish. However, Zola's steady nerve kept the marriage from falling apart and eventually Alexandrine adopted the children as affectionately as if she were their grandmother. She stood steadfastly by him in his last great battle, when he came out with his manifesto in defence of Dreyfus, *J'accuse*, and was vilified by half the nation.

Was he murdered for this? He died of carbon monoxide poisoning in his bedroom in 1902, but the police found that mysteriously, the chimney was not blocked up. In 1953, some evidence came out that an anti-Dreyfusard, working on the roof next door, had in fact blocked it up but cleared it early the next morning. The mystery remains.

Frederick Brown keeps you reading with pleasure throughout this long story.

His one fault is to repeatedly drag in another story — the Freudian story of Zola's Unconscious. After every novel we get a supposed glimpse of Zola's suppressed sexual fears — his father, for instance, is always lurking in his male characters, threatening to castrate him and "exact vengeance on the adulterous child". This is a crude, over-explicit Freudianism that the story does not need.

It is also disconcerting to find American slang in Brown's translations of Zola's letters — "right now", "wit

bored me shiteless". You cannot blame it for being American, since Brown himself is, but perhaps slang should never be used in translation, since it has such a strong, local flavour.

Nevertheless, Brown is a first-class narrator. He draws in with real skill the tumultuous political events of Zola's lifetime, from the defeat of the Commune to the contorted parliamentary struggles of the Third Republic. He is unfailingly fascinating on Zola's friends, from Cézanne, whom he knew as a schoolboy in Aix, to Edmund Goncourt, always sneering wittily at Zola behind his back. And — something quite rare in biographers — he reminds one constantly of Zola's physical appearance — the well-spoken young man wrapping parcels, the 50-year-old man cycling with gusto through the mud with his wife following on a tricycle, the dead man on the floor, "his head propped against the bed's wooden dais". Zola would have applauded that final view of him.



Emile Zola: his novels shocked conservative critics

## Open door to fear

A Jewish grandmother is talking to her intelligent grandchild as they prepare the traditional recipes for a Passover meal. The girl does as she is instructed, paring apples and chopping walnuts, while her grandmother explains the significance of special foods in the ceremony which celebrates the escape of Hebrew slaves from Egyptian tormentors in biblical times. The preparations are very concretely described: the child's hands are sticky; the smells of clove and cinnamon are evoked with peculiar clarity.

But the child is eliciting another story at the same time, something which happened not so long ago in a country of samovars, where people drank tea through lumps of sugar. And it is this story which Mameet is passing on like a warning.

All that remains from that other story is the candlesticks on the present table, and the knowledge that all other possessions have been lost. In the excellent illustrations, a knife figures more and more prominently: that knife, once used in preparations for Passover, connects to the same terrible story.

What makes this little book so terrifying, however, is not the story itself. The child may be living in America — the exact country is unmentioned — but she knows about pogroms. She knows they often happened at Easter, and she



Destroying to deceive: Michael McCurdy's woodcuts highlight the tension of David Mameet's warning tale

Elaine Feinstein

PASSOVER  
By David Mameet with  
illustrations by  
Michael McCurdy  
Harper Collins, £7.99

frisson of fear engendered by a knock on the door at the end, and the uncertainty about what lies outside that is alarming; alongside the last woodcut where a woman stands by a Passover table with a knife behind her back, and the moon in the open doorway. This could be taken to refer to the story from the past, but

what might be feared in the new country, if not now, then at some future time.

It seems a dubious knowledge to hand on. There is a point in the traditional Passover ceremony which demands that the door should be opened to welcome the prophet Elijah. It must always have been a brave gesture but it is also an essential one, since fear is no protection against hatred outside. The wisest teaching of the Passover ceremony is the tolerance of strangers whose motives may be no worse than our own.

Elaine Feinstein's novel, *Lady Chatterley's Confession*, is published in Macmillan, £10.95

## Tube-cheats beware

I want to be dated and narrated," sang Doris Day. Darian Leader's irritating but at times beguiling book tries to draw on films and literature as well as psychoanalytical theory to examine the differences between male and female sexuality. Much of what is written here is specious nonsense but we all enjoy specious nonsense from time to time. Some of it would never make it into a newspaper or magazine column, and that's saying something. But dignified by a matt Faber cover, an intellectual's aquiline face peering in black and white from the back, languid hand supporting his chin, well, great.

Darian Leader carefully circumvents simple explanations whenever he can. He believes that the more "masculine" the behaviour of a man becomes, the more he is transported into the feminine. Thus, Leader asserts, it was no accident that the Hollywood star chosen for the role of the world's first pregnant man, in the film *Junior*, was Arnold Schwarzenegger. Nothing of course to do with the comedy of the world's most masculine man having a baby. I now see why psychoanalysts don't say much when their clients talk. None would ever return.

The reason, he tells us, that people cheat on the Underground is not because they

wish to save money but because they want to be castrated and women are searching for a dead man as a lover, which is why they often like boring, half-dead men. The evidence for this dead-man-as-lover theory is Dracula and one rather good story about a woman who phoned all the morgues every time her partner was out late.

Some of the stories are enjoyable, and Darian Leader

Sally Emerson

WHY DO WOMEN  
WRITE MORE  
LETTERS THAN  
THEY POST?  
By Darian Leader  
Faber, £9.95

would be much better off writing fiction rather than fiction masquerading as serious analysis, for he does write well and has an original mind. The case of the woman whose sexual fantasy is of her husband refusing to have sexual intercourse with her then leaving her for another woman might be worth a short story, but he builds up from it a whole theory of woman's "sexualisation of her own disappearance".

Darian Leader says that women define themselves only in terms of men. There is no

doubt that that is how he defines women, believing that the image of a woman telling a man she is pregnant with his child is far more powerful than the image of a woman with her children. In general, I found his comments on women unsound and silly, his comments about men more interesting. Perhaps he is right when he suggests, in the enticing opening pages, that men and women are strangers to each other.

What intrigued me most in the book were various asides, such as the mention of Lady Caroline Lamb sending a letter to Byron "made up of the precious fabric of her pubic hair". Stanley Spencer writing to Hilary for nine years after she died, and the information that the cinema image of women screaming hysterically when trapped in lifts is quite false. In fact, men are much more claustrophobic, which is why men's clothes are usually on the ground floor, to protect them from the labyrinth horror of the upper levels.

Leader is a disciple of the French psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan (1901-1981) and Theodor Reik (1888-1969), one of Freud's early students. Leader writes: "Lacan's work has been received in the Anglo-Saxon world with great reserve. It is characterised as obscure, flighty and destined only for the initiate."

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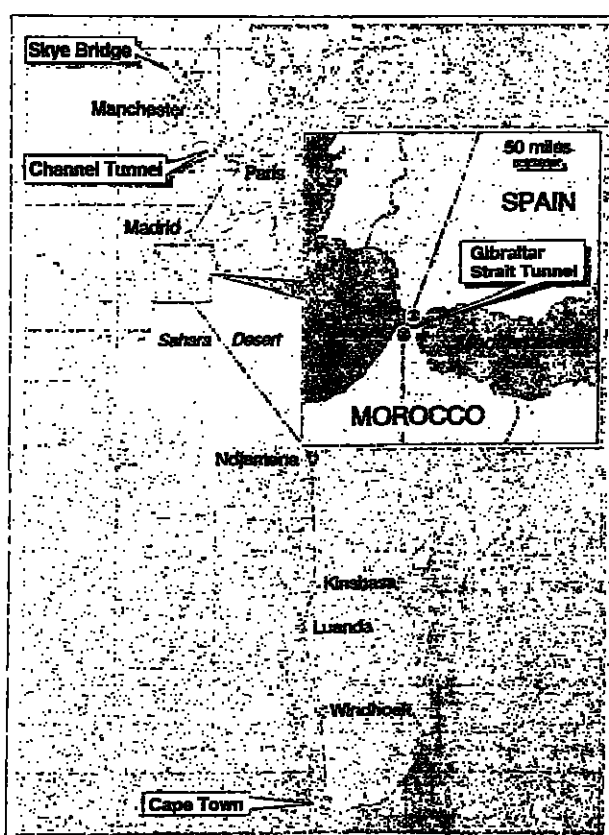
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## Tunnel to Africa

A 25-mile tunnel under the Strait of Gibraltar is planned to link Europe and Africa within the next 15 years, *Harvey Elliott writes*.

Under a Spanish-Moroccan agreement signed last week, work on the £2.5 billion project should start next year. It is planned to have the twin-tunnel open by 2010 — making it technically possible to "drive" more than 6,000 miles from the Isle of Skye to Cape Town.

The tunnel will cross under the strait between the Spanish town of Tarifa and Tangier, in Morocco, and the journey will

take about 30 minutes. The design is based on the Channel Tunnel linking Britain and France and, although profit forecasts are low, both countries are undeterred by the problems, and intend to press the European Union to invest in the construction project.

Meanwhile, Eurotunnel, which claims that business is at last beginning to pick up, plans to spend £400 million over the next four years on improving passenger facilities, modernising the terminals and introducing a larger fleet of shuttle trains.

## British cycle track wins 'green' award

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

A SEA-TO-SEA cycle route stretching for 140 miles across the North of England sped off with the top Tourism for Tomorrow award last week.

The cycle path, set up by the sustainable transport charity Sustrans with the backing of 14 local authorities, follows minor roads, traffic-free cycle tracks and disused railway tunnels and bridges between Workington on the west coast and Newcastle on the east.

It is the first time that a British entry has won the British Airways-sponsored global award in what is one of the most prestigious environmental tourism competitions. The cross-Britain cycle path has already attracted thousands of visitors, stimulating local economies and encouraging families to cycle together while having little impact on the rural landscape.

This year there were two special awards for projects

attracting more than 50,000 visitors a year. The European award was given to the Cites de France holiday concept, which was established in 1954 to counter depopulation in rural areas of France and which last year attracted two million visitors to 32,000 renovated cottages and farm buildings. Visitors to the sites have also contributed £3 billion to the French rural economy and now similar projects have sprung up around the world.

The long-haul award went to the 1,000-year-old Hindu temples of Khajuraho in India, which are famed for their erotic sculptures. The temples are buried in the forests of central India and were only rediscovered 30 years ago. They have now been extensively restored and bring economic benefits to the impoverished region.

Dr David Bellamy said: "It is crucial that mass-market



The Hindu temples of Khajuraho won the long-haul award

companies and the most popular destinations take on board the importance of environmental responsibility. Both Cites de France and Khajuraho are large-scale tourism projects which demonstrate that environmental manage-

ment and commercial success can go hand in hand."

Other winners were the Temple Bar development in Dublin; Sea Canoe, Phuket, Thailand; Lapa Rios, Costa Rica; Tortilis Camp and Wildlife Conservation Area, Kenya.

## Deadly errors in the cockpit

THE aviation industry has never understood the travelling public's fear of flying. It points out that at least three times as many people are killed on the roads of Britain each year as die in air crashes in the whole world.

The intense scrutiny which is given to every plane crash to find out what went wrong and to prevent it happening again would put to shame any other form of transport, they claim.

Yet whenever an aircraft falls from the sky — whether it is a packed Boeing 757 taking off from the Dominican Republic or a light aircraft taking a group of friends to France for the weekend — a chill fascination grips us all.

Now a new report by "detectives" from the Department of Transport's Air Accident Investigation Branch indicates that accidents of the kind that can befall any car driver can also happen to the most skilful of pilots.

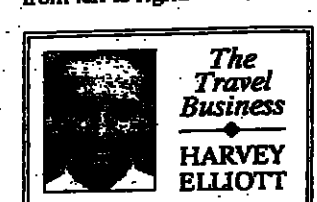
The accident investigators believe that Major Ian Fraser, piloting a Beechcraft Baron which crashed close to a school playing field near Andover last August, may have inadvertently closed the mixture control rather than the propeller lever.

The positions of controls of older Beechcrafts, Baron 58 twin-propeller aircraft are different from those made by other plane makers, they say. Beechcraft has now changed the layout in newer versions of the Baron, but claims it is impossible to modify about 20 older aircraft still operating in Britain.

Major Fraser, 36, his wife,

who was an RAF Wing Commander, and two friends were all killed when the plane crashed with its engines spluttering as it returned to the airfield after a door flew open.

Major Fraser was an experienced pilot but had flown only 34 hours on the Baron. "The aircraft is unusual in that the engine controls are grouped in the order: propellers, throttles and mixtures," says the AAIB's initial report. "The conventional layout is throttles, propellers and mixtures, from left to right."



Had the mixture levers been inadvertently retarded then the engines would "probably have sounded as described by witnesses", says the report.

David Ogilvie, the chairman of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots' Association, wants cockpit standardisation urgently. "Car drivers can find themselves using the windscreen wipers when they want the indicators, especially in a different car from the one they are used to," he said.

"If the layout of motor cars causes that sort of confusion, it must not be allowed to do so in aircraft."

Surely it is time that manufacturers of all types of aircraft should accept this if they want to maintain public confidence in flying.

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# US hotel giants prepare to invade Europe

BY DAVID CHURCHILL

BRITISH and European hotel groups face a major invasion into their markets by several leading US hotel chains which are currently finalising plans to open new hotels in the UK and on the Continent.

Their determination to penetrate the European market follows lack of expansion opportunities in the mature US hotel sector. In addition, the availability of the former Fort-owned Meridien and Exclusive Ho-

tels in Europe, which are being auctioned off by new owners Granada, has stirred the American interest in Europe.

The Radisson SAS group yesterday announced four new hotels in Italy — in Milan, Brescia, Lodi and Bergamo — and is planning two hotels in Paris and one in Manchester. The company says its strategy is to open at least eight new hotels a year in Europe over the next few years, adding to its 35 hotels in 17 countries worldwide.

The Chicago-based Hyatt chain is also targeting Europe, with six new hotels planned over the next two years, starting with Antwerp, followed by Paris and Germany.

This week Westin Hotels also announced its latest move into Europe with a link-up with Demeure Hotels, owned by the French Compagnie Générale des Eaux group. The seven hotels in the Demeure group, including four in Paris and one each in London, Amsterdam and Geneva, will be

rebranded as Westin Demeure Hotels from April 1 when the partnership comes into effect.

This is an important move for us as it establishes Westin in these key European markets for business travellers as well as luxury leisure travellers," says Denis Johnson, Westin's regional vice-president for Europe.

Marrion, one of the US hotel chains interested in buying the former Forte luxury hotels from Granada, says it is looking to add

between 6,000 and 8,000 rooms in Europe. At present, Marrion has some 18 hotels in Europe with four under construction. In the UK the Whitbread brewing group, which already operates 16 Marriott hotels and a franchise arrangement, plans to convert ten of its existing hotels to Marriott Properties.

ITT Sheraton, which last year acquired the Ciga chain from the Aga Khan, tomorrow opens a new Sheraton Hotel at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport.

## Ireland unites on tourism front

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE TWO ministers responsible for encouraging tourists to visit the whole of Ireland will today sit side by side in a London hotel and insist that the Irish travel renaissance must continue.

Baroness Denton, the Northern Ireland Tourism Minister, and her Irish counterpart, Enda Kenny, will launch the first joint travel workshop for some 350 travel agents and tour operators from the British mainland.

The growth of tourism, especially to Ulster, following the original ceasefire has been phenomenal. During 1995 the number of visitors to Northern Ireland went up by 17 per cent to reach a record 1.5 million. Of those, 430,000 were holidaymakers — an increase of 56 per cent on 1994. And the amount of money spent by tourists to the Province grew even more sharply to reach £220 million.

Hotels filled 62 per cent of their rooms on average, compared with 51 per cent in 1994, and 68 per cent of visitors were from abroad.

The Irish Republic has also benefited from the peace, with 2.3 million visitors from Britain alone, compared with 2.03 million the previous year.

The two tourist authorities have been working together more closely for the past 18 months and today's workshop was intended to win over thousands of holidaymakers who may still harbour doubts about security.

The bomb in Docklands last Friday, however, has changed the emphasis, with both ministers now determined to persuade the industry to put up the business-as-usual signs.

The main concern is that American, Asian and European tourists may stay away. The Americans are known for their fierce attitude to

holiday destinations. Last year Britain benefited from the large number of Americans who changed their plans for travelling to Paris once bombs began to go off in the French capital.

But last night the indications were that US visitors were remaining calm. "The reaction from our offices in America is one of very muted concern," said Anthony Sell, chief executive of the British Tourist Authority. "The Americans seem more philosophical, perhaps because they have now experienced bombs themselves at the World Trade Centre and in Oklahoma."

A similar attitude has so far been taken by visitors from Europe and Asia, with no reported cancellations of visits to the United Kingdom.

Terrorism had never had a major effect on tourism to Britain, Mr Sell said. "Economic factors and transport connections are more likely to affect tourism trends, which now look very positive. We are expecting over 24 million visitors spending some £12 billion this year."

Nevertheless, the travel and tourism industry throughout the British Isles — which last year recorded an overall increase of 18 per cent in expenditure by foreign visitors — is nervously awaiting any aftershocks from the Docklands bomb.

Nonetheless, has this been more apparent than in Belfast, where hoteliers, taxis and tour guides were stunned by the IRA's ending of the ceasefire. They were looking forward to an even better year this year.

Ironically, there is a glimmer of hope. Since the bomb the Northern Ireland Tourist Board has had an increase in calls from potential tourists on the mainland expressing support and asking for brochures.

## Ferry companies offer joint tickets

BY STEVE KEENAN

TWO ferry companies have pooled resources on the competitive Irish Sea to offer holidaymakers a choice of travel routes. P&O European Ferries and Irish Ferries will allow passengers to travel out with one company and back with the other on a new "circuit of Ireland" ticket.

The ticket can be chosen from P&O's Scottish crossing of Cairnryan-Larne and Irish Ferries' two routes from Wales — Holyhead-Dublin and Pembroke-Rosslare.

With only one Irish Sea route, the deal is particularly significant for P&O, which is desperately trying to protect its cross-Channel operation from Eurotunnel. But it boosts both companies' rivalry with Stena Line, which is prepar-

ing to launch a high-speed service (HSS) on Holyhead-Dun Laoghaire on March 1. The HSS will carry 1,500 passengers and 375 cars and cut crossing times in half, to 99 minutes. A second HSS is due to come into service on Stranraer-Belfast in June. Irish Ferries will also have a new ship, the *Isle of Innisfree*, on Holyhead-Dublin this summer.

Prices for the circuit of Ireland ticket start at £138 for a car and five passengers. Ironically, the new deal was announced just hours before the IRA bombing last Friday. But with the fierce price war on the Channel this year, ferry companies are looking to increase their profits on their Irish Sea operations.

## France and Spain head world tourist league

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

FRANCE is still the world's favourite holiday destination, despite a drop in the number of visitors last year.

According to the World Tourism Organisation nearly 61 million visitors went to France in 1995, 15 million more than the second-placed country — Spain. Spain ousted the United States as the world's number two destination, however, with a 4.38 per cent increase, while the number of foreigners visiting America dropped by 1.7 per cent to 44.73 million.

China leapt into the top ten for the first time thanks to an increase of almost 11 per cent in visitors compared with the previous year.

Across the world the number of international tourists rose 3.8 per cent to 567 million and revenue from tourism grew 7.2 per cent to \$372 billion, excluding air fares.

The fastest growing region was the Middle East, which seems to have been rediscovered in 1995. Although tourist arrivals to the Middle East represented only about 2 per cent of the total, the numbers grew by 11.3 per cent and the amount they spent increased by nearly 30 per cent. Egypt,

which is visited by four out of every five tourists to the region, increased revenues by 95 per cent to \$2.7 billion, while big increases were also reported by Jordan, Bahrain and Lebanon.

The world's top ten tourist destinations in 1995 were:

Country	Visitors (000s)
1 France	60,584
2 Spain	46,125
3 United States	44,730
4 Italy	29,184
5 China	23,368
6 United Kingdom	22,700
7 Hungary	22,087
8 Mexico	19,057
9 Poland	19,225
10 Austria	18,750



After a ten-year break, Air Jamaica is once more flying passengers to the land of golden sand and clear blue sea

## Air Jamaica is born again

BY STEVE KEENAN

FASHION shows at 30,000 feet will be revived when Air Jamaica returns to Heathrow after a ten-year absence next month. The airline was renowned in the 1980s for the 30-minute spectacular shows, featuring crew dressed in the latest Caribbean fashions sashaying down the aisle.

But the curtain came down when the government-owned airline stopped flying to London due to financial cutbacks. A decade on, it has been privatised and reborn under the chairmanship of Butch Stewart, Jamaica's equivalent of Richard Branson.

Jamaican-born Stewart is the majority shareholder in the airline, his money made in manufacturing and the Sandals resort hotels in the Caribbean. Last year, he was awarded the country's national honour, the Order of Jamaica.

"His philosophy is service, service and more service," said Tony Cowles, the managing director, in London this week. The fashion shows will be accompanied by free Mumm's champagne for economy and business passengers, with Caribbean dishes included in the fare. The airline employs a full-time chef.

There will be 16 business class and 180 economy seats on new Airbus 310s, with Air Jamaica competing against British

Airways on the routes to Montego Bay and Kingston. It starts flying on March 30 with three flights a week, the same frequency as BA. But Air Jamaica will fly four times a week in peak summer and five next winter. It also wants to fly from Manchester but is currently precluded by air agreements between the two countries.

Fares start at £664 in economy rising to £1,806 return in business class, the same rates as BA.

"The service on board will be absolutely tremendous," said William Rodgers, senior vice-president of marketing. "We are going to give BA a lot of trouble."

● Air Jamaica reservations: 0181-570 7999.

## Business travellers seek greater luxury

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

BRITAIN'S middle managers have had enough of being forced to cut costs whenever they travel, and are now demanding business-class air travel and four-star hotel accommodation.

George Paton, chairman of the Guild of British Travel Agents, whose 33 members are responsible for organising 80 per cent of the £6.5 billion spent by companies on business travel, said yesterday that middle managers were now "flexing their muscles".

"At the beginning of the winter there was a sudden and marked change in the way business travellers made their arrangements," he said. "There was a reversal of the trend for cost to be the most important element of any business travel. The benefits which can now be obtained, especially in long-haul travel, from greater space and faster-track Customs and immigration procedures are now tangible rather than nebulous."

"It has been shown also to be a perfect opportunity to do business on aeroplanes and in hotels, provided you are and travelling with your peers and potential customers."

The drive to attract the fast-expanding business travel market is bolstered this week by the Business Travel 96 Exhibition in London, where 130 companies are displaying their new products to a potential audience of 10,000 corporate travel managers throughout the country.

The exhibition, which includes airlines, hotels and a range of high-tech equipment designed to cut costs and make travel more efficient, is at the Business Design Centre, in north London, until tomorrow.

"They've talked about it for years but now they have eliminated us," said Jackie Gibson, UK marketing manager. "I am very disappointed. We will be the only major player in the UK without a tourist office."

The US TTA opened in London in 1962. At its peak, it received 30,000 visitors a year. It moved into the Embassy in 1991 and closed its walk-in service.

The office eased the workload for other representation offices. Damian O'Grady, of the Florida Division of Tourism, said: "They handle a lot of inquiries on our behalf. But now there is no filter and we will have a lot more work."

Around 3.4 million Britons are expected to visit America this year, more than half heading for Florida, and long-haul travel is selling well, with bookings up 35 per cent.

An advertising campaign which the US TTA is committed to will continue to run until the end of March and the number advertised, 0891 136 136, will function until then.

● The Florida Division of Tourism, also runs a premium-rate information service on 0891 602 555. An information pack is available from ABC Florida, PO Box 35, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4SF; enclose a cheque for £2 for post and packaging.

## BARGAINS OF THE WEEK

CLIMB Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro with tents, porters and guides, organised by Explorasia/Abercrombie & Kent. Leaving on January 20, price per person for seven nights' full board: £1,495. Details: 0171-730 9600.

INNTRAVEL short breaks is offering a weekend break in Bruges, departing from London (Waterloo) on February 23. The price per person is £157, based on a party of two people, including two nights' bed and breakfast at Hotel T'Voermanshays and Eurostar to Bruges via Brussels. Details: 01653 628862.

AN EXTRA departure on March 28 has been added to

any hotel services apart from accommodation costs. The offer applies to guests staying between Sunday and Thursday at any of its nine London hotels, where rates start at £52.50 per person per night. Details: 0800 374411.

ACTRESS Geraldine McEwan will perform excerpts from Jane Austen novels including *Pride and Prejudice* at the Lucknam Park Country House Hotel, in Wiltshire on Sunday, March 31. The cost is £75 per person including dinner, with a special rate that evening of £50 per room. Profits will go to a children's leukaemia charity. Details: 01225 742777.

AMERICAN Airlines has upgraded its transatlantic business class with more leg room (50in on average as against 40in before), flexible meal times and the provision of Sony Video Walkman sets. Details: 0181-572 5555.

BRITISH Airways has introduced cheaper Domestic Saver fares. Return flights from London to Aberdeen or Inverness now cost £90, with Belfast available for £79. Details: 0181-897 4000.

PASSENGERS bound for Hong Kong, New York or Paris this winter can secure some of the lowest fares through the Wexas Travel

Club. Hong Kong return with Air France costs £440. New York with El Al costs £161, while British Midland to Paris costs £53. Details: 0171-589 3315.

BRITISH Airways Travel Shops are offering one Air Mile for every £5 spent on travel. In addition, an Executive Club member booking a full-fare ticket and paying with a NatWest credit card would earn a further two sets of Air Miles. Details: 0171-434 4700.

FLEMMISH airline VLM is set to launch direct flights between London City and Mönchengladbach (near the German-Dutch border) in April. Details: 0171-476 6677.

LE SHUT-TLE is packaging ski insurance for four people to get a car tunnel crossing from £99. The insurance is valid for ten days, cheapest fare relates to a midnight-6am crossing. Valid until the end of April. Details: 0990 353535.

CONDOR Ferries, operating from Weymouth to

Guernsey and Jersey, has discounted five-day and standard returns available through Eurodrive. A five-day return for a car and two passengers costs £120 to both islands, a standard return £190, valid until March 31. The ferry departs each night at 10.30pm, except on Mondays and Wednesdays. Details: 0181-324 4000.

## Eat out for a fiver

DINING OUT is always a pleasure, but with *The Times* Eat Out For £5 offer, it is also easily affordable. All you need is one of the vouchers published daily and you, plus up to five friends, can take advantage of this superb offer which is valid until the end of March. If you missed our 24-page guide send two first class stamps to: *The Times* Eat Out For £5 offer, PO Box 481, London E1 9BD.

There are more than 400 restaurants participating in our offer which will give you the chance to sample dishes by some top chefs at a fraction of the normal price. All bookings and inquiries should be made by phone to the restaurant and you should mention *The Times* Eat Out For £5 offer when you make your booking. You must present your voucher when you arrive to enjoy your meal. Full terms and conditions are in the guide.

## THE TIMES Eat out for £5 VOUCHER

This voucher entitles the bearer and up to five guests to a one, two or three course meal for £5 each at any one of the participating restaurants in *The Times* Eat Out for £5 guide.

CONDITIONS OF USE

Reservations must be made in advance and the voucher presented on arrival. The offer applies to the Eat Out for £5 menu only at applicable sittings for up to six people. One, two or three courses apply as specified in the guide. Where less than three courses are offered, starters and desserts can be selected from the main menu and the appropriate price must be paid. This offer applies to food only — drinks must be purchased separately. Where no drinks are purchased, restaurants may charge a discretionary £2 per person cover charge. The offer is valid from February 12 until March 31, 1996. Refer to the guide for full details, days available and whether lunch or dinner is being offered.

● The Florida Division of Tourism, also runs a premium-rate information service on 0891 602 555. An information pack is available from ABC Florida, PO Box 35, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4SF; enclose a cheque for £2 for post and packaging.



Air of controversy surrounds efforts to keep running noses open

# Athletes sniff a chance to go faster

Clamping a clothes peg on your nose in the interests of sporting science is a tough assignment. But it is just one of the workouts your nose has been subjected to this week in an endeavour to unravel the latest athletic mystery: can a strip of plaster over your nose make you run faster?

Nasal strips are the latest sporting aid (or gimmick) to come out of the United States, where the market for them is said to be worth \$1.5 billion a year. The marketing men say potential customers include anyone who has a nose. American football players were the first sportsmen to endorse them, and television viewers here will have seen them being used by the South African rugby team during the World Cup last summer.



They have spread rapidly to the playing fields of Britain. Half of England's rugby team now wear them — Mike Cant is described by Breathe Right Strips as "our official endorser for the rugby sector" — and the enterprising manufacturers have sent go-faster plasters to the Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Wales rugby teams, as well as the England hockey team, Liverpool Football Club and the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race squads.

They have been seen on noses dipped low over handlebars in the Tour de France and there were so many in the New York Marathon that one observer said it looked like a plastic surgeons' convention. There will be 30,000 of them handed out at the Flora London Marathon in April, which will mean a lot of exposure for what looks like the most improbable sporting device in town.

The principle is simple enough. They supposedly improve breathing by opening up the nasal passages, and consist of a couple of plastic strips, rather like collar stiffeners, in a piece of adhesive

tape. Stick it across the bridge of your nose and it acts like a spring, flaring your nostrils until you feel like Kenneth Williams in *Carry On Up The Olympics*.

The makers say the strips have been "clinically shown to reduce nasal airflow resistance an average of 31 per cent". They were originally developed not to win ball games but to stop snoring. The inventor, Bruce Johnson, a middle-aged landscape gardener, stuffed all sorts of things up his nose in pursuit of a night's sleep. He tried everything from bent paper-clips covered in cotton wool to sawn-off plastic straws. "This was stuff you don't want to try at home," Johnson said. "I was desperate."

What he came up with has won medical approval in the United States as a snore-buster but many experts sniff at claims of improved sporting performance. Peter Sperry, author of *Sport and Medicine*, dismisses them as "total rubbish — a mere fashion fad. Nobody breathes through the nose in sport and there's no advantage in doing so. It's mumbo-jumbo, like most of the stuff that comes out of America about sports diet."

"They'll make a load of money, of course. I wish I'd thought of it. The strips were invented to stop snoring, so they have a great marketing opportunity at Lord's — all those cricket watchers who drop off after lunch should boost sales no end."

Alan Storey, general manager of the Flora London Marathon and a leading athletic coach, agreed. "The amount of air that you can take in through your nose is irrelevant," he said. "It's not what you can get in, it's what you can absorb that matters. The strips may help psychologically, but opening your mouth when you exercise is a reflex action — you don't have to decide to do it." Storey said none of the athletes he coaches used the strips. "If they did," he added, "I'd send them home for being improperly dressed."

Sieve Seaton, editor of *Runner's World*, said that physiologists he had spoken to were highly sceptical about the benefits of nasal strips for sports people — one thought the biggest effect was likely to be an outbreak of skin rashes on the nose. But Seaton admitted there was a paradox. "Thousands are using them, whatever the doctors say, and all the runners that I've talked to reckon they feel better with the strips than without."

That is certainly the case for the



Plastered in Paris: Sleightholme sports a go-faster device for his international debut last month

England rugby player, Jon Sleightholme. The Bath wing, who made his international debut against France last month, said: "They work very well. They open up the airways and feel great. Loads of players are using them and, if they weren't working, they wouldn't use them."

Like many rugby players, Sleightholme has suffered a broken nose, which he said felt blocked without the strips. Enthusiasm like that of Sleightholme has set off a race to dominate the market. In Britain, Breathe Right are lined up against

Easy Breathing — both now launching their products here — and, worldwide, fierce patent battles are being fought.

My own battles this week have included several runs with Easy Breathing nose strips — and one with a clothes peg. I tested myself, and my nose, by running three times over the same distance at a constant effort (as measured by a pulse monitor). I ran first with the nasal strip to give me maximum nose input. Then I ran, equipped only with the nose that God gave me. Finally I ran with my nose shut

down completely, my nostrils clamped firmly with a clothes peg.

There was no significant difference in the times taken — though the clothes peg option was by far the most uncomfortable. The jury is clearly still out on nose strips, and I shall continue to gather evidence.

Come next April and the Flora London Marathon, it may be that we shall, to our surprise, see the winner sniffling victory with a go-faster plaster on his nose. Maybe, but don't hold your breath.

JOHN BRYANT

## Challenge set to achieve record corporate entry

By MEL WEBB

BARELY a week after the fourth season of *The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge* was launched, the signs are already good that the competition is embarking on a record-breaking competition.

Firmly established as the sporting event that no self-respecting company can afford to miss, the Challenge, with its unique mix of accessibility and simplicity in organisation, occupies a place in the affections of corporate Britain that is beyond doubt.

The Challenge was a winning concept from the day it was launched in 1993, but it has been continually refined over the years and now provides a full list of built-in extras. With the arrival as an official supplier of Newtrack, one of the country's leading players in the field of on-line business information technology, companies that have entered will be given a comprehensive, on-screen service, constantly updated through the services of Reuters, ADP (QSTLine), ICV-Topic3 and Blomberg.

Newtrack will be devoting ten pages of news, fixtures and results in its free service to subscribers. Initially, the service will be updated weekly, but, as winter moves into spring and summer, there will be more frequent revisions.

The competition, which will receive maximum coverage in *The Times* as well as monthly stories in the pages of *Golf World*, the best-selling golf magazine and another newcomer as an official supplier, will thus be given an important third outlet for the dissemination of news and information. The added cost to entrants? Nil.

The Challenge also has its own dedicated magazine, *The Business Golfer*, a quarterly publication that is proving increasingly popular with competing companies. It keeps a watching brief on the Challenge and provides a lively read for the company golfer. The magazine is available free to any business golfer-day organiser. Even the mechanics of the event

have been fine-tuned and enhanced. As entries have grown, so have the number of regional finals this year there will be 12 — two more than last year.

With at least 300 company teams expected to play in regional finals this year, it means that, if we hit our target of 1,200 entries, teams will have a one-in-four chance of qualifying. John Mitchell, the event director, said: "The odds have never been so good."

Those teams that reach regional finals will also have a treat in store, wherever in the British Isles they play. The Challenge will visit some top-quality courses during the regional final series in October, including such tried and tested tournament venues as Dalmahoy, Forest of Arden and St Pierre.

Among the newcomers this year are the Nick Faldo-designed Chart Hills, in Kent, which is the European headquarters of the David Leadbetter Golf Academies, Shaleys Hall, scene of the North final on October 7, which has become acknowledged as one of the country's finest inland courses, and Stoke Poges, where the beautiful mansion-clubhouse has recently been restored to its former glory. The cost of taking the competition to such prestigious lay-outs is high. The extra cost to those getting there? Nothing.

"We believe we have an absolute obligation to take our regional finalists to the very best courses possible," Mitchell said. And that is just the beginning — the national final takes place on the famed South course at the Hyatt La Manga Club Resort in southeast Spain. How much will national finalists have to stump up for their travel, accommodation and golf during their days in the sun in November? Not a penny.

Details of *The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge* can be obtained from the Challenge offices at 0171-436 3415. Those interested in receiving *The Business Golfer* free of charge can leave their names and addresses on the same number.



### Privy Council

### Law Report February 15 1996

### Queen's Bench Divisional Court

## Council liable for economic loss

*Invercargill City Council v Hamlin*

Before Lord Keith of Kintyre, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill, Lord Lloyd of Berwick and Sir Michael Hardie Boys (Judgment February 12)

The Court of Appeal of New Zealand was entitled to hold that a local authority was liable to the owner of a house built with defective foundations for the economic loss caused by the authority's negligent inspection of the foundations, notwithstanding the decision of the House of Lords to the contrary effect in *Murphy v Brenwood District Council* [1991] 1 AC 398. The court was not required to follow the decision of the House of Lords in the present case, as the facts were materially different.

Given that the loss in respect of which a plaintiff sued for latent defects in buildings was now required to be economic loss, rather than physical damage, the New Zealand courts had correctly held that the cause of action occurred when the defect could reasonably have been discovered, since that was when the value of the building depreciated and all the elements necessary to support the claim came into existence.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council so held in deciding on appeal by Invercargill City Council from the judgment of the Court of Appeal of New Zealand (Sir Robin Cooke, President, Mr Justice Richardson, Mr Justice Casey, Mr Justice Gault and Mr Justice McKay) on September 1994 upholding the order of Mr Justice Williamson, who had awarded the plaintiff, Mr N. G. Hamlin, damages against the council for having negligently approved defective foundations during the construction of the plaintiff's house in 1972.

Miss Denise Bates and Mrs Susan Bambray, both of the New Zealand Bar, for the council; Miss Christine French, of the New Zealand Bar, for the plaintiff.

LORD LLOYD, delivering the judgment of the Board, said that the judge had held that the council was in breach of contract, since the foundations had not been laid in accordance with the specification, but they were no longer in business.

With regard to the plaintiff's claim in tort against the council, the judge had held that the

council's building inspector had been negligent in carrying out his inspection and that a reasonably prudent homeowner would not have suspected the foundations, or discovered the cause of the trouble, until 1989, when the plaintiff had taken a wrong turning in 1972, it was argued, New Zealand law would never have followed, and the present appeal afforded an opportunity for the Board to put New Zealand law back on the correct path.

The Lordships stated that where the Court of Appeal of New Zealand was purporting to apply settled principles of English common law, then it was the function of the Board to ensure that those principles were applied correctly. But in the present case the judges were consciously departing from English case law on the ground that conditions in New Zealand were different. Were they entitled to do so? The answer had surely to be "yes".

The ability of the common law to adapt itself to the differing circumstances of the countries in which it had taken root was not a weakness, but one of its great strengths. Were it not so, the common law would not have flourished as it had, with common law countries learning from each other.

In a succession of cases in New Zealand over the last 20 years it had been decided that community standards and expectations demanded the imposition of a duty of care on local authorities and builders alike to ensure compliance with local bylaws.

New Zealand judges were in a much better position to decide on such matters than the Board. Whether circumstances were in fact so very different in England and New Zealand might not matter greatly. What mattered was the perception.

Both Mr Justice Richardson and Mr Justice McKay in their judgments based stressed that to change New Zealand law so as to make it comply with *Murphy* would have "significant criminal implications" and would require a "major attitudinal shift". It would be rash for the Board to ignore those views.

Limitation. The facts as found by the judge raised in an acute form the question when the plaintiff's cause of action accrued. If the cause of action arose at the time of the negligent act or omission, or when the first cracks appeared, then it was obvious that the plaintiff's claim in tort against the council would be time-barred.

But if the cause of action did not accrue until the plaintiff was advised in 1989 that the foundations were defective, and if, as the judge found, a reasonably prudent homeowner would not have discovered the cause of the cracks any earlier, then the proceedings were in time. Which view was correct?

In New Zealand the law had been relatively clear and straightforward since at least the decision of the House of Lords in *Aure v*

*Albert Borough Council* [1977] 2 NZLR 234. In that case Mr Justice Cooke said that a plaintiff could recover in tort for economic loss "at least when that loss is associated with physical damage". So a cause of action must arise when the defect becomes apparent or manifest.

The Court of Appeal below had reconsidered the matter in the light of *Pirelli* but had reaffirmed the New Zealand approach on limitation.

In the Board's view, once it was appreciated that the loss in respect of which the plaintiff in the present case was suing was loss to his pocket, and not for physical damage to the house or foundations, then most, if not all, the difficulties surrounding the limitation question fell away.

The plaintiff's loss occurred when the market value of the house was depreciated by reason of the defective foundations, and not before, if he resold the house at full value before the defect was discovered, he had suffered no loss. Thus in the common case the occurrence and discovery of the loss would coincide.

The plaintiff could not postpone the start of the limitation period by shutting his eyes to the obvious. The cause of action accrued when the cracks became so bad, or the defects so obvious, that any reasonable homeowner would call in an expert.

Since the defects would then be obvious to a potential buyer, or his expert, that marked the moment when the market value of the building was depressed, and therefore the moment when the economic loss occurred.

It was not possible to define the moment more accurately. The measure of the loss would then be the cost of repairs, if it was reasonable to repair, or the depreciation in the market value if it was not.

That approach was consistent with the underlying principle that a cause of action accrued when, but not before, all the elements necessary to support the plaintiff's claim were in existence. For in the case of a latent defect in a building the element of loss or damage which was necessary to support a claim for economic loss in tort did not exist so long as the market value of the house was unaffected.

Their Lordships' advice on the limitation point was confined to the problem created by latent defects in buildings. They abstained from considering whether the "reasonable discoverability" test should be of more general application in the law of tort.

It was regrettable that there should be any divergence between English and New Zealand law on a point of fundamental principle. Whether *Pirelli* should still be regarded as good law in England was not for their Lordships to say. What was clear was that it was not good law in New Zealand.

Solicitors: Simmonds, Church, Smith & Co.

*Greener v DPP*

Before Lord Justice Saville and Mr Justice Bledsoe (Judgment February 2)

An offence under section 3(3) of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 could be committed by omission.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when dismissing an appeal brought by Mark Greener by way of case stated from Newcastle Crown Court (Mr Recorder Nolan, QC and Justices) on appeal from a decision of North Shields Justices who had found that an offence had been committed contrary to section 3(3) of the 1991 Act. Mr Greener was £400 costs and the dog ordered to be destroyed.

Section 3 of the 1991 Act provides: "(3) If the owner... of a dog allows it to enter a place which is not a public place but where it is not permitted to be and while it is there (b) it injures any person... he is guilty of an offence, or, if the dog injures any person, an aggravated offence, under this subsection."

Mr Euan Duff for Mr Greener; Mr Robert Adams for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE SAVILLE said that Mr Greener was the owner of a powerful Staffordshire Bull Terrier. He had left the dog chained in an enclosure in his back garden.

The dog had strained and bent the clip releasing its chain. It had

escaped from the enclosure and entered a nearby garden where it hit the face of a young child.

Mr Greener had taken precautions to prevent the dog's escape and genuinely intended it to be kept secure in the enclosure. Similar precautions had been taken in the past but they were obviously inadequate as the fastening was not good enough and the enclosure not secure.

Mr Duff submitted that it could not be said that Mr Greener allowed the dog to enter the garden as a positive or permissive step had to be proved. He also submitted that on the true construction of section 3(3) there had to be some mental element in the form of intention, desire or foresight of the consequences.

His Lordship said that section 3(3) could not require proof of a positive or permissive step. The court had to look carefully at the words and to give them their true meaning and to omitting to take a positive step.

Mr Greener had failed to take adequate precautions. As a matter of ordinary language, leaving aside the issue of mens rea, he allowed the dog to get into the garden.

There could be cases where by common sense and with the ordinary meaning of the word, it could not be said that a defendant allowed his dog to get into a prohibited place for example if a third person intentionally released the dog. But that was not the present case. The reason for the dog's action was Mr Greener's failure to take adequate precautions to keep it on a chain.

His Lordship addressed Mr Duff's submission that if there was no mens rea element to the offence it would be one of strict liability, even though the Court of Appeal in *R v. Bezzina* [1994] 1 WLR 1057, 1062 by a dictum of Lord Justice Kennedy had said that section 3(3) imposed the concept of mens rea.

His Lordship said that in the context what was meant was that unlike in subsection (1), there had to be an act or omission by the defendant that led to the state of affairs envisaged in subsection (3). In the present case the omission was the failure to take adequate precautions.

Subsection (3) did not qualify "allows" with intentionally or negligently or knowing of the consequences that would ensue.

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## RUGBY UNION 41

ROWELL TAKEN TO  
TASK FOR A  
LACK OF VISION

## SPORT

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15 1996

## BOB PAISLEY 42

DAVID MILLER'S TRIBUTE  
TO BRITISH FOOTBALL'S  
GREATEST MANAGER

New Zealand capitalise on mistakes to win opening match in cricket World Cup

## Fielding lapses catch up on England

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN AHMEDABAD

AHMEDABAD (England won toss): New Zealand beat England by 11 runs

THE last cricket World Cup was won by a Pakistan team that began the tournament playing embarrassingly poorly. In the final, they beat England, who had set out as if champions by destiny. It may mean little now, but, after their unscheduled setback in the opening game of the 1996 competition, yesterday, it is about all that England can cling to by way of consolation — that, and the pleasant surprise that the Ahmedabad crowd did not stage its customary riot.

Within the terms of this long-winded event, losing is not quite such a dirty word as usual. England will still qualify for the quarter-finals so long as they beat the supposed makeweights of Holland and United Arab Emirates. But defeat yesterday was chastening for being inflicted upon an England team that has not improved since sinking into despair at the end of the South Africa tour.

The day was alarming, too, for a hamstring injury suffered by Graeme Hick, arguably England's best player. Though not serious — "a tightness rather than a pull", Raymond Illingworth, the team manager, said — it is a concern, for Hick is one man England cannot cope without.

It is not a disgrace to lose to New Zealand. It may happen to better teams than England. This loss, however, was tantamount to default, such was the generosity of England's field-

ing. All else, including the dubious strategy of bowling first and relying more on seam than spin, pales into insignificance alongside the bungling out-cricketer that dictated the result.

Of the four catches that England dropped, much the most costly reprieved Nathan Astle, the New Zealand opener. He had made just one, and was destined to make precisely another 100. But England erred in more ways than the spilling of chances, for their ground fielding was clumsy enough to cost perhaps 20 crucial runs.

Captain and manager were candid. Michael Atherton said succinctly: "Our fielding was poor, and the dropped catches cost us the match. I don't think you could fault our batting or bowling that much." Illingworth, brow creased with the worries of one whose job is on the line rather more imminently, agreed. "It was the same story in South Africa," he said. "We have worked hard on it since, but when it came to the crunch, we missed our chances again."

Atherton was unrepentant about the decision that contributed to the result. "I think the balance of the side was

right and I think the decision to insert was right," he said. "I was certain in my own mind what we should do, and I would do the same again." Not for the first time in the aftermath of defeat, Illingworth distanced himself from such matters, saying that he had pointed out the dangers of bowling first, at 9am and with a ball wet from the heavy morning dew.

Support for Atherton, however, came from Lee Gernon, the New Zealand captain, who confirmed: "We were looking to bowl first, too." It was, then, a toss best lost, for the expectation of early movement for the quicker bowlers came to little, and the pitch lost pace through the day.

The folk of Ahmedabad, who have halted a game or two in their time and, not so long ago, stoned an England women's team, were still filling into this ugly, unkempt stadium when England gave the game away. Having preferred Martin to DeFreitas and Neil Smith, they might have been vindicated. New Zealand might indeed have been seven or two, but Thorpe, the lone slip, dropped both openers in consecutive overs.

Spearman soon departed to a sharp return catch by Cork, but Astle and Fleming embarked upon a second-wicket stand of 96 in 19 overs, playing with a fluency that may disrupt many a team. Fleming, dropped by Atherton on 25, made three more before top-edging a sweep against Hick to deep backward square. Thorpe took the catch with relief, and the dismissal was repeated, eight overs later, to remove Twose.

Cairns excited the crowd merely by his entrance and, although Hick played with courage and facility for his 85, support was lacking. Ironically, Hick fell through no fault of his own, run out by some fine work from Twose after Atherton and Fairbrother had hesitated over a sharp single. England, at that point, had needed 96 from 15 overs. "We were second favourites, but not by much," Atherton said. Thereafter, the odds became stark as England's decline took familiar shape, even some uncultured slogging from Fairbrother and Cork leaving them comfortably, deservedly, short.

England needed Atherton to stay for most of their reply, and so he did. All but eight balls, however, were as a runner for the hobbling Hick. A wicked yorker from Nash hit Atherton's leg stump to



The injured Hick, who made 85, sets off for the pavilion after Atherton, acting as his runner, had been beaten by Twose's throw yesterday

redouble England's task, and although Hick played with courage and facility for his 85, support was lacking.

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England won toss

NEW ZEALAND  
C M Spearman c and b Cork ..... 5  
(20min, 16 balls)  
N J Astle c Hick b Martin ..... 101  
(171min, 132 balls, 21st over, 10 runs)  
S P Fleming c Thorpe b Hick ..... 28  
(73min, 47 balls, 3 hours)  
R G Twose c Thorpe b Hick ..... 17  
(27min, 26 balls, 1 hour)  
C L Cairns c Cork b Illingworth ..... 36  
(34min, 30 balls, 1 st, 4 hours)  
C Z Harris run out (White/Russell) 10  
(22min, 16 balls, 1 hour)  
S A Thomson not out ..... 17  
(27min, 23 balls, 1 hour)  
"H K Gernon not out ..... 13  
(18min, 12 balls)  
Extras (b 4, lb 2, w 4, nb 2) ..... 12  
Total (8 wds, 50 overs, 189min) 238

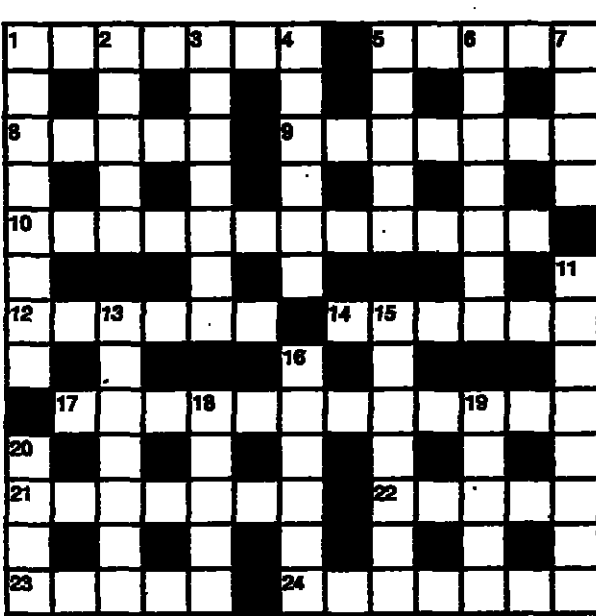
D J Nash, G R Larsen and D K Morrison did not bat.  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12 (Astle 5), 2-108 (Astle 67, 3-141 (Astle 81), 4-195 (Astle 86), 5-204 (Harris 5), 6-212 (Thomson 3).  
BOWLING: Cork 10-1-36-1 (nb 1, w 1; 2 hours; 6-1-15-1, 2-0-11-0, 2-0-10-0; Martin 6-0-37-1 (1 st, 3 hours; 3-0-25-0, 3-0-12-1); Gough 10-0-43-4 (1 st, 7 hours; 5-0-20-0, 3-0-20-0, 2-0-17-0; Illingworth 10-1-51-1 (3 hours; 7-1-27-0, 3-0-4-1); Hick 9-0-45-2 (w 3; 3 st, 1 hour; one spell); White 5-0-21-0 (nb 1; 2 hours; one spell).

ENGLAND  
"M A Atherton b Nash ..... 1  
(4min, 3 balls)  
A J Stewart c and b Harris ..... 34  
(65min, 72 balls, 3 hours)

G A Hick run out (Twose/Gernon) 85  
(135min, 101 balls, 9 hours)  
G P Thorpe b Larsen ..... 9  
(20min, 21 balls)  
N H Fairbrother b Morrison ..... 36  
(52min, 46 balls, 1 hour)  
TR C Russell c Morrison b Larsen 2  
(10min, 9 balls)  
C White c Cairns b Thomson ..... 13  
(18min, 12 balls, 1 st)  
D G Cork c Gernon b Nash ..... 16  
(21min, 11 balls, 1 st, 2 hours)  
D Gough not out ..... 15  
(22min, 17 balls)  
F J Martin c Cairns b Nash ..... 3  
(8min, 7 balls)  
R K Illingworth not out ..... 8  
(7min, 4 balls)  
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 1, nb 2) ..... 8  
Total (8 wds, 50 overs, 210min) 228  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1 (Stewart 0), 2-100 (Hick 81), 3-123 (Hick 75), 4-144 (Fairbrother 11), 5-151 (Fairbrother 18), 6-190 (Fairbrother 32), 7-195 (Cork 1), 8-210 (Gough 3), 9-222 (Gough 12).  
BOWLING: Morrison 6-0-38-1 (nb 1, w 1; 4 hours; 4-0-13-0, 4-0-25-1); Nash 7-1-28-3 (nb 1; 2 hours; 5-1-14-1, 0-12-2); Cairns 4-0-34-0 (4 hours, one spell); Larsen 10-1-33-2 (2 hours; 5-1-3-0, 5-0-14-2); Thomson 10-0-51-1 (st 2 hours; 7-0-32-0, 3-0-19-1); Harris 9-0-45-1 (nb 1; 1 st, 1 hour; 7-0-29-1, 2-0-16-0); Astle 2-0-6-0 (one spell).  
New Zealand won by 11 runs.  
Men of the match: N J Astle.  
Umpires: B C Cooray (Sri Lanka) and S G Randall (Australia).  
Referee: M A K Patasudi (India).  
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## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 705 in association with  
BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS

- 1 Swindler; a crab (7)
- 5 Pernickety (5)
- 8 Wanderer (5)
- 9 Term of endearment (7)
- 10 Secret, embarrassing film-ing (6,6)
- 12 Low point; animal feed-holder (6)
- 14 To mark with patches; such a horse (6)
- 17 Egg, fell off wall (6,6)
- 21 Talking precedence: a government head (7)
- 22 Oddly amusing (5)
- 23 Personal teacher (5)
- 24 Mocked (7)

DOWN

- 1 Savage cruelty (8)
- 2 Sofa, bed (5)
- 3 Loitering with intent (7)
- 4 Diminish (6)
- 5 Discussion place, opportunity (5)
- 6 Rider's foot support (7)
- 7 (Hindu) physical/spiritual exercises (4)
- 11 Used again to be economical (8)
- 13 Wealthy (7)
- 15 (Broken) apart (7)
- 16 Bred from different varieties (6)
- 18 Earlier (5)
- 19 Arrogant; projecting a little (5)
- 20 Skewer; spade depth (4)

PRIZES:

THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.  
THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe.  
All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 704

ACROSS: 1 Claret, 4 Island, 5 Just, 9 Majority, 10 Levantine, 13 Fable, 15 Truce, 16 Pique, 18 Ombudsman, 21 Sparadale, 22 From, 23 Heavy, 24 Lights.  
DOWN: 1 Cattle, 2 Veal, 3 Tump, 5 Spout, 6 Avid, 7 Agronomist, 11 Bomb, 14 Bomber, 16 Putsch, 17 Arsonist, 19 Unsat, 20 Lows.

WINNERS OF LAST WEEK'S COMPETITION, No 699

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic or international network is F. Arley, Redcar, Cleveland.  
2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is B. V. Baker, Potterswood, Kent.  
All flights subject to availability.

## Modahl goes on the offensive

BY DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

DIANE MODAHL moved from defence to attack yesterday when she launched High Court proceedings against the British Athletic Federation (BAF). She is seeking what her solicitor described as "a substantial six-figure sum" as compensation for losses associated with her suspension from athletics for an alleged drugs offence.

Modahl said that she faced "financial ruin" and that she felt "betrayed" by the BAF, which confirmed her four-year ban for failing a drugs test. Seven months later, in July last year, a BAF appeals panel overturned the ban. Tony Ward, the federation spokesman, said last night that the BAF would contest the action "vigorously".

Modahl was sent home from the 1994 Commonwealth Games as she was about to defend her 800 metres title, after failing a drugs test conducted in Lisbon ten weeks

earlier. She was banned for four years, a decision confirmed by a BAF disciplinary hearing. The appeals panel freed her to return to competition, though she has yet to race since then.

A statement issued yesterday by Modahl's legal representatives, Mishcon de Reya, said: "She alleges serious breaches of contract by BAF and claims damages in respect of the costs of fighting two sets of proceedings, including her legal and scientific experts' fees, loss of sponsorship and loss of other income. BAF's breaches relate to the suspension, the first disciplinary hearing and then the ban notwithstanding fundamental flaws in the case against her."

No mention was made of a claim for defamation. "This is not a libel writ," Tony Morton-Hooper, her solicitor, said. The BAF declined to settle without going to court.

"The federation, by its rules, is not empowered to compensate in the manner that is being suggested," Ward said.

"The BAF was presented with a very difficult case of a test carried out abroad. It was duty-bound to act under the rules and regulations of the international federation," Ward added that, so far, the cost of the case to the federation was "well into six figures".

Although she is training, Modahl has not entered yet for the British Olympic trials in June. "She has been through a



Modahl: seeking damages

trauma and is struggling to know whether she is going to compete," her husband said. In a statement, the athlete said: "I regret the fact that in this year I would have liked, along with all our Olympic athletes, to be concentrating on the Games in Atlanta. Instead I have to pursue my case through the courts in order to obtain some form of amends for what I have been put through over the last 18 months."

Edward Grayson, author of *Sport and the Law* and a barrister specialising in legal issues in sport, said: "So far as I have been able to trace it is the first time in the United Kingdom that British sports administrators have been sued for damages for alleged defective procedures."

The last national record of the Finnish distance runner, Paavo Nurmi, fell late on Tuesday, 71 years after it was set. Jukka Tammi's 2,000 metres time of 5min 20.18sec beat Nurmi's record of 5:22.04 set on February 13, 1925.

## Muster suffers a rude awakening

FROM ALIX RAMSAY  
IN DUBAI

IT IS hard to think of Thomas Muster, the world No 1 and the player who has salvaged more lost causes than St Jude, as a one-week wonder. However, his newly-acquired position at the top of the tennis world rankings looked in doubt last night after he was beaten 6-1, 3-6, 7-6, by Sander Stolle in the first round of the Dubai Open.

Stolle, ranked No 161, should not have been in the main draw at all. He got his chance to face the No 1 seed when Petr Korda withdrew with a back injury a few hours before the match. Stolle was drafted in as a lucky loser from the qualifying competition.

Muster arrived in Dubai at the crack of

dawn, having travelled overnight from Johannesburg, where Austria had been playing their Davis Cup tie with South Africa, and spent most of the day sleeping off jet lag. Indeed, he looked less than awake as the first set whistled by with Stolle taking control from the outset.

Muster then forced his way back into the match, making Stolle work for every point. As his opponent struggled to recover between increasingly long rallies, Muster jogged around the baseline looking fighting fit. For a while, the psychology seemed to work but even Muster could not ignore the warning signs from his straining body.

A break down in the third set, Muster's only chance came from Stolle's sudden attack of nerves. The Australian began to pepper his game with double faults and

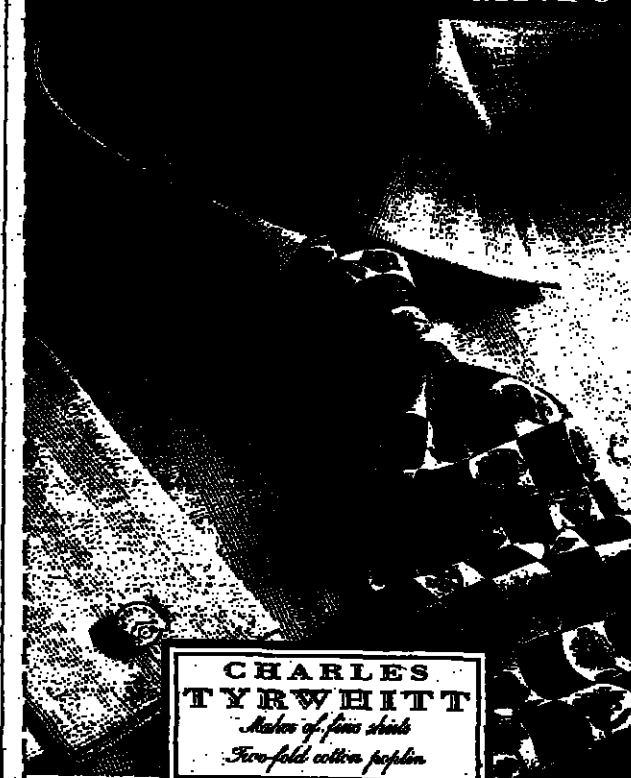
missed the shots he had been hitting as winners just moments before. He held his nerve, however, camped out at the net, and won the deciding tie-break 7-0.

Depending on how Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras perform this week, Muster's nine-point lead in the rankings may well have been overtaken when the new lists are published on Monday.

It was not a good day for those who have sampled the delights of being the best in the world. Stefan Edberg, another former No 1, was also booking an early flight home after losing to David Prinosil from Germany, 5-7, 7-6, 6-3. Looking unhappy, Edberg announced that, unless his form improves, he may well cut short his last year on the circuit.

Dubai results, page 40

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## The pleasures and occasional perils of Moscow's 100-year-old bath house

MUSCOVITES turned out in force yesterday to pay their respects to one of the city's most venerable institutions, where for 100 years citizens have been drawn in search of a particularly Russian blend of pain and pleasure.

The Sandunovsky Baths, Russia's most famous bath house, was mobbed by hundreds of enthusiasts after it threw open its ornate doors and allowed customers in free to celebrate its centenary. Sandunovsky, an elegant pre-revolution building, is one of Moscow's most beloved landmarks, where for generations Bolshevik artists, mobsters and humble factory workers have sweated out hangovers, exchanged jokes and escaped the dirt and strain of



Richard Beeston tests the waters at Russia's most famous bath house, where Muscovites go to escape the dirt and strain of city life

city life. One of its earliest customers was Chekhov, while Eisenstein filmed some of the naval sequences for his film *The Battleship Potemkin* on the water of its neo-classical swimming pool. More recently the final shooting scene of the Cold War thriller *Cold War* was set in Sandunovsky's ornate men's changing room.

Banya (bath house) enthusiasts, recognisable by the felt hats they insist on wearing inside the sauna bath, enforce a strict routine of blistering hot sessions in the sauna, combined with birch beatings and followed by a dip in an icy plunge pool. The relief only comes at the end of the session with a traditional hearty meal accompanied by vodka and beer.

water, today it has taken on mystical qualities, a point reinforced by Sandunovsky's elaborate neo-Gothic architecture.

Aside from the physical experience, Khamit Aiyev, the banya's director, said that his baths provided a unique social service for Muscovites tired of nagging spouses, imperious bosses and a rigid hierarchy. "When you come in here, take your clothes off and enter the banya you will find that everyone is equal," Mr Aiyev said. "It is physically and spiritually cleansing."

In a typical banya session recently I encountered a distinguished impresario, a Korean businessman, a heavily tattooed gangster from the Baltics and a retired

engineer all amiably swapping stories.

"It is easy to relax and make friends in the banya," said Yevgeni, after completing a rejuvenating two-hour session in the steam bath and plunge pool. "When everybody is naked and beating themselves with birch branches there is no room for snobbery. We are all just as we were at birth."

Russian banya enthusiasts have been known to improvise bath houses in the most unlikely locations. Officers serving in remote mountain regions of Tajikistan and Chechnya frequently build their own banyas on base.

One mini banya has even been rigged up on the orbiting space station Mir for cosmonauts. But

excessive visits to the banya can also be dangerous. President Yeltsin, an avid banya fan, is alleged to have decided to launch his ill-fated invasion of the breakaway republic of Chechnya after a particularly drunken session with his closest advisers at a private sauna.

Amiran Kvantrishvili, Moscow's former mafia godfather, paid for his life because of his obsession with banyas. Although well protected, he made the mistake of visiting a Moscow bath house at the same time each week, which gave a hit man the perfect opportunity to pick him off as he emerged on to the street.

"The banya is a great tradition," said Gleb Uspensky, a publishing

director and avid banya-goer. "But too much of a good thing can be bad for you."

□ Duma club: A State Duma committee last night voted in favour of installing a health club in parliament. Deputies have already voted for other benefits for themselves, such as free flats in Moscow and country homes in the suburbs. The parliamentary health club will include a physical fitness centre and offices for a dentist and other medical staff. It did not say how much the club would cost or whether it would need the approval of the entire Duma. The lower house is dominated by Communists and nationalists who advocate populist measures to benefit the working people. (AP)

## Bosnian Muslims to face charges over war crimes

By MICHAEL BINYON, EVE-ANN PRENTICE AND STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

THE war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia is about to indict the first Bosnian Muslims for suspected war crimes.

The announcement yesterday by Richard Goldstone, the tribunal's chief prosecutor, comes after the transfer to The Hague of two Serb officers, arrested by the Bosnian Government and now held pending charges.

Mr Justice Goldstone said the investigation into war crimes committed by Bosnian Muslim forces was nearly complete. He expected that indictments would be submitted to a judge for confirmation "in the coming weeks".

A spokesman for the tribunal refused to disclose where the suspected Muslims were from, but sources close to the Muslim-led Bosnian Government suggested that they included at least one from Srebrenica — paradoxically where the Bosnian Serbs are accused of filling mass graves with Muslim victims — and others from central Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr Justice Goldstone's announcement rebuffs claims by the Bosnian Serbs that the tribunal is biased against them. Only seven of more than 50 people so far indicted are not Serbs. The recent deten-

tion of Serb soldiers has caused uproar among the Bosnian Serbs, who have broken off all contact with Nato forces in Bosnia.

Richard Holbrooke, the American negotiator, assured the Serbs this week that any future arrests would have to be sanctioned from The Hague in advance. But Mr Justice Goldstone said yesterday that the two Bosnian Serb officers who have been taken to The Hague were suspected of "serious violations" of international humanitarian law.

Mr Holbrooke, who briefed Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday, insisted in London yesterday that America would be unyielding on the issue of war crimes. He said the issue had been negotiable from the start of the three-week talks in Dayton. All parties had signed their acceptance of the conditions and agreed, in front of witnesses, that war crimes trials should go ahead.

He said there was no difference between British and American positions on the trials. Public pressure, to pursue the matter vigorously, was as strong in Europe as America. He also denied that Nato was shying away from the arrest of Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader. He

said more than 70 per cent of the Bosnian Serbs would be delighted if Dr Karadzic were "removed".

He gave a warning, however, that there was strong public opposition in America to "mission creep" — extending by stealth the mandate for the Nato forces to include the hunting down of war crimes suspects. Public opinion had been shocked by the killing of American soldiers in Mogadishu and would not countenance any pursuit of war crimes suspects similar to the hunt for General Aided.

Mr Holbrooke, who retires next week, denied that the Dayton accord would unravel when he left.

On speculation that he would be asked by President Clinton to return as Secretary of State in a second Clinton term, he said he had done all the jobs he wanted in his 19 years in government.

He gave a strong warning, however, that the situation in Mostar was extremely serious and could cause the collapse of the Croat-Muslim federation. He had warned President Tudjman that he must restrain Croat separatists in the city. America gave full backing to Hans Koschnik, the European Union-appointed administrator of the city.



Tatiana Lebedeva, above, is helped after colliding with Harald Schoenhaar, below. Both suffered broken legs

### 'Idiocy' causes ski crash

THE International Ski Federation (FIS) yesterday accepted responsibility for a collision between Tatiana Lebedeva, a Russian downhill skier, and one of its race officials.

"There is absolutely no excuse for what happened today. FIS takes full responsibility," Gianfranco Kasper, the FIS general secretary, said. "It was a complete idiocy on the part of one of our officials." Lebedeva, 22, and Harald Schoenhaar, 22, suffered broken legs during training for the Alpine skiing world championships in Sierra Nevada, Spain. Lebedeva, 22, caught his left leg with her right ski. (Reuters)



## Four die on eve of elections in Dhaka

FROM REUTERS IN DHAKA

FOUR people were killed in bomb blasts and more than 150 wounded as political violence flared across Bangladesh yesterday the eve of general elections.

Clashes erupted as opposition parties boycotting the poll enforced a 48-hour country-wide strike to disrupt the vote. Today's election is a test of strength between two charismatic women, Begum Khalida Zia, the Prime Minister, and Shaikh Hasina Wajed, the leader of the Awami League.

In Chittagong, witnesses said two people, one believed to be an opposition activist, were killed and almost 30 wounded in sporadic bomb blasts as security forces and opponents of the poll clashed. Two pro-Government activists were killed in Khulshpur, near Khulna, when they were attacked with bombs.

At least 50 people, including five security men, were wounded in battles sparked by opposition attempts to burn the election office in the northern town of Pabna, where anti-politicians snatched ballot boxes. Activists also hurled bombs at army convoys in Pabna and Chittagong. It was not known if anyone was hurt.

Other protesters set fire to nine polling stations in Chittagong and snatched nearly 200 ballot boxes in the northern town of Tangail, officials said. In other incidents around the country election officials were reported to have been abducted or wounded and lorries carrying material to polling stations were also attacked.

So far this month 19 people have been killed in political violence and 600 wounded.

## Kohl 'will not stand' if he loses EMU backing

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL is reported to have put his future on the line to save the European monetary union project.

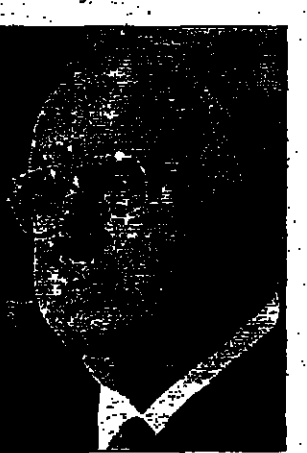
The German leader, according to well informed sources, warned members of the Christian Democrat parliamentary group, and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, that he will stand for re-election in 1998 only if he is given full party backing on the single currency. The point is to bring dissidents into line and end talk of shelving EMU.

The Chancellor could not have made a more potent threat: the party is particularly restless at the moment. Although the latest opinion polls indicate that the governing coalition of Christian Democrats and Free Democrats would be returned to power if the election were held today, there is still uncertainty over the future of the small, sickly Free Democrats.

Without Herr Kohl, the Christian Democrats would be in poor shape. Yesterday the *Altenbach* polling institute gave the Christian Democrats and the CSU 37.5 per cent (compared to 41.5 per cent in the 1994 general election) and the Free Democrats 6.7

per cent (down from 6.9 per cent). Other polls have the Free Democrats hovering only slightly above the minimum 5 per cent required to win any parliamentary seats. The Social Democrat opposition has 34.2 per cent, down slightly on 1994, while the Greens have almost doubled their share of the vote, to 13.2 per cent.

The call to discipline comes at a time of considerable confusion in the increasingly heated German debate about monetary union. Senior man-



Kohl: powerful threat to an uneasy party

agers appear to be warning to the single currency, although they have doubts about the 1999 start date. The *Altenbach* Institute found that 77 per cent of business and political decision-makers support the euro, compared to 61 per cent last June.

"While the public continue to discuss heatedly the plans for EMU, there is growing dissent among the economic, political and administrative leadership," the institute said. However, a majority — 52 per cent — are sure that EMU will not begin on time.

A more differentiated view emerged yesterday, however, from Hans-Otto Henkel, head of the Confederation of German Industry, who urged the Government to carry out a comprehensive study of the economic risks of monetary union. There was a real chance, he said, that the attempt to meet the convergence criteria could plunge aspiring members of the monetary union into recession.

"We are not even sure if one or the other candidates will fail to meet an important convergence criterion by its very efforts to enforce financial discipline," he said.

## Deep Blue told to stop game

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

GAME three of the chess match between the world champion, Garry Kasparov, and IBM's Deep Blue computer ended in a draw after technicians "forced" the machine to accept Mr Kasparov's offer of a draw. If left to its own devices, the soulless computer would have played on until a bloodier conclusion had been reached.

The draw left the "players" with 1½ points each, half way through the \$500,000 (£327,000) match in Philadelphia. The game saw Deep Blue playing white, trying to tempt Mr Kasparov with pawns. The grandmaster resisted the lure.

Such was the yeve of Deep Blue's game that the champi-

on said afterwards that the computer played "at a level of some of the best players in the world". Deep Blue repeated its Sicilian defence opening gambit of game one, a surprising tactic because one might have expected a machine to select an untried option.

When the offer of a draw was made, Deep Blue's programmers had to intervene because the computer is unable to take the tactical decision to accept. "Conciliation is not really part of the computer's program," an IBM official said. Man can see advantages in a draw that are not obvious to a machine.

Computer buffs viewing the match on Internet suffered a setback when demand for the

web site exceeded expectations with five million "hits" a day, the computers could not cope: two supercomputers have been fitted.

A new, human face of Deep Blue was featured when Murray Campbell, one of the five programmers, sat across the board from Mr Kasparov to move the pieces. In the first two matches that job fell to Dr Feng-shiung Hsu. Two others of the team, Joseph Hoane and Gershon Brody, will "play" in the final games, but C.J. Tan, the team's modest leader, has declined to be in the limelight.

Game four began last night and today is a rest day. The last two games will be played tomorrow and on Saturday.

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# Rome crisis throws EU presidency into turmoil

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY was plunged into a fresh political crisis yesterday, with a disruptive election campaign looking increasingly likely only weeks before the special European Union summit in Turin which Italy is due to chair.

Antonio Maccanico, the senior bureaucrat and former banker asked by President Scalfaro to form a government two weeks ago, announced "with the deepest regret" that he had been unable to persuade the leaders of Left and Right to join in a grand coalition to complete Italy's reform process.

"Mounting political obstacles made the formation of a government of national unity impossible," Signor Maccanico said after meeting the President at the Quirinal Palace. "Our country has lost a great and extraordinary opportunity and remains immersed in a grave political and institutional crisis."

Leaders of Left and Right blamed each other for the breakdown, which leaves the country adrift. The lira, which had risen on Signor Maccanico's appointment, fell sharply, as did prices on the Milan stock exchange. European diplomats expressed dismay, noting that Italy holds the EU presidency until the end of June. Continuing political chaos is paralysing EU policy at a critical time: the Turin summit at the end of next month is to open the inter-governmental conference revising the Maastricht treaty.

Elections were the one option President Scalfaro had sought to avoid. He could ask someone else to form a government and explore the idea of a constituent assembly, but he is running out of candidates and is more likely to ask Signor Dini, as caretaker Prime Minister, to go before parliament on whether the country should go the polls. Many MPs said yesterday there was no alternative. The election would be held in April.

Signor Maccanico was to have replaced the "technocrat" interim administration of Lamberto Dini, who resigned early last month. The Maccanico appointment came after an apparent broad agreement among the parties on a reform programme, including proposals for a French-style directly elected presidency to share power with parliament.

However, Gianfranco Fini, leader of the "post-fascist" Alleanza Nazionale and the most probable beneficiary of new elections, insisted on a referendum on any such constitutional change. Massimo D'Alema, leader of the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), the former Communists, wanted power to rest predominantly with parliament "to preserve democracy".

The Centre Left suspected that a powerful presidency would be misused by a right-wing leader such as Signor Fini or Silvio Berlusconi, the leader of Forza Italia, who headed the centre-right coalition of 1994. Signor Berlusconi suggested yesterday that the Dini caretaker Government should continue in office for several months, allowing time for the convening of a constituent assembly to debate constitutional change.

Signor D'Alema dismissed that as a device to avoid elections and taunted Signor Berlusconi with being afraid of losing votes to Signor Fini, his rival for the centre-right leadership. He said going to the polls was the only answer: anything else would only create "an even worse mess".

In reality, however, the Left, like Forza Italia, fears it will lose votes. Since the electoral system remains the same as for the last election, in March 1994 — a mixture of first past the post and proportional representation — the result is again likely to be inconclusive, with Signor Fini tipped to increase his share of the vote and emerge as a possible coalition leader.



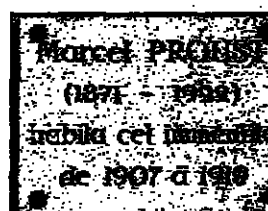
The room in Paris where Proust wrote *A la recherche du temps perdu* which, with his picture on one wall, has been opened to the public

## Door opens on Proust's writing sanctuary

THE cork-lined room where Marcel Proust wrote *A la recherche du temps perdu*, has been restored in homage to the reclusive writer who craved absolute tranquillity amid the noise of Paris.

The second-floor apartment at 102, Boulevard Haussmann, where Proust lived and worked between 1907 and 1919, was no humble writer's garret but a sumptuous bourgeois spread with high ceilings, marble columns and elaborate mouldings. Now owned by a French bank, the apartment has been restored to its earlier grandeur, while Proust's favourite room has returned to its former, sepulchral silence.

This week it was opened to the public by appointment and in the summer thousands of literary tourists are expected to visit the latest addition to the Proust pilgrimage trail, which already includes the house where he was born in the suburb of Auteuil, the Ritz hotel where he often enter-



Ben Macintyre visits the cork-lined room in a Parisian apartment building, marked with a plaque, where Marcel Proust guarded his peace to write at night

tained and the building where he died in 1922 on the Rue Hamelin. Proust insisted that the walls of the room where he slept and wrote should be lined with thick panels of cork — an idea he got from the Henry Bernstein, the dramatist — while the windows were muffled by heavy curtains to keep out the distracting noise of the boulevard below.

The writer worked mostly at night and the sound of the daytime bustle, when he was trying to sleep, drove him to distraction. "He was very sensitive to noise," Nicole Leher, an official of the SNVB bank, said yesterday as she opened the door to a room in which the traffic outside was reduced to

a murmur. When a neighbour was having construction work done, Proust offered to pay the builders to work at night so he could sleep in the day, apparently forgetting that his neighbours kept more conventional hours.

The sombre silence favoured by the writer was not to everyone's taste. Proust's servant, Céleste Albaret, recalled that when she walked into the room for the first time, it was like entering one of the deep caves she remembered from her youth in the Lozère region. The apartment belonged to Proust's aunt and he chose to live there for the macabre reason that he had seen his great uncle die in the

room he selected as his writing chamber.

In contrast to Proust's day, when the room had no paintings to divert his thoughts, a vast photograph of the writer now gazes down from a wall. Comfortably off after the death of his parents but convinced he was on the edge of bankruptcy, Proust was part hermit, part socialite. He often wrote in bed, the room dense with vapours from powders he brewed up for his chronic asthma.

He installed one of the first telephones in Paris, principally in order to listen to the opera which was piped directly and at great expense from the Comédie Française via the "théâtrephone". His reclusive existence on the Boulevard Haussmann, often as a near-invalid, was punctuated by bouts of sometimes frenetic socialising amid the Parisian upper classes. In 1917 Proust complained that he had been to so many "simple" dinner parties at the Ritz and had

consumed so much champagne that he felt overstrained, "cardiacally and pulmonarily".

*Du côté d'ici, de chez Swann*, the first volume of *A la recherche du temps perdu* (Remembrance of things past), was turned down by André Gide at Gallimard publishers and was finally published in 1913, at Proust's expense. Gide later admitted to Proust that his decision had been the "gravest mistake ever made".

When his aunt sold the building on the Boulevard Haussmann in 1919 to the bank that still owns it, Proust said he would have done anything to keep his apartment had he been informed of the sale earlier. That year Proust won the Goncourt Prize and belated recognition. Sensing that death was not far off, he immersed himself in a final burst of writing. Three years after leaving his cork-lined sanctum, he was dead.

Leading article, page 19

## Ancient Dead Sea curse defied

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

IN DEFIANCE of a curse written in Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus, archaeologists have uncovered an ancient Jewish village on the edge of the Dead Sea which contains the lost secrets of the production of the prized balsam oil used to anoint the kings of Judah and other monarchs in the ancient world.

Yitzhak Hirschfeld, of Jerusalem's Hebrew University, disclosed yesterday that the ruins of a fortress-style factory used to process and guard the precious liquid had been uncovered high on rocky slopes overlooking the Dead Sea oasis of En-gedi. "Nothing like it has been found anywhere in the countries of the ancient world," he said. His team had spent the winter excavating the long-buried village, which was abandoned after a fire in the 6th century AD, and the factory, whose entrance was sealed with a stone that was still in place when the experts arrived.

The discoveries explain the meaning of a curse inscribed in the mosaic floor of a magnificent synagogue discovered in the area 25 years ago: "Cursed be he who reveals the secret of the village to the Gentiles," it said in what is now seen as a reference to the formula for producing the oil.

The balsam, produced at En-gedi from as early as the 6th century BC, was regarded as the finest in the ancient world, according to accounts by the Roman historian Pliny the Elder, the Jewish chronicler Josephus and Talmudic writers.

Mr Hirschfeld hopes that samples scraped from the vats inside the newly discovered factory will at last yield the secret. The balsam was made from a species of perennation tree found only along the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on earth, and in Jericho near by. The tree, he said, believed to have been grown on terraces around the village, became extinct in the 6th century AD when the secret of how to produce its precious oil was lost. Mr Hirschfeld said that the Jews of En-gedi guarded the details of their manufacturing process closely because the wealth of the estimated 1,200 villagers depended on the superiority of their balsam.

## Oil workers receive death threat

Paris. Muslim militants have told oil and gas workers in Algeria that they will be murdered by hit squads if they continue working.

The threat was published yesterday in the London-based Arab-language newspaper *al Hayat* which quoted a statement signed by Abu Abdul Rahman Amin, the leader of

the Armed Islamic Group, which has fought army-backed authorities since 1992.

"Who stops work will serve his own interest and who does not stop work insists on war and harms himself and will be killed," said the statement.

The warning was aimed at Algeria's state-owned oil and gas company, Sonatrach, and

the national petroleum firm, Naphthal, which is responsible for distributing oil products in the local market, as well as "all those who contract with them individually or as firms," the newspaper said.

Oil and gas exports account for more than 90 per cent of Algeria's foreign exchange earnings. (Reuters)

## Legal row over Anne Frank marketing

By Roger Boyes

ANNE FRANK, the Jewish girl who chronicled the Holocaust through the eyes of a child, is at the centre of a bitter legal dispute between Dutch and Swiss foundations.

For decades the Anne Frank Foundation in Amsterdam and the Anne Frank Fund in Basel have acted together to prevent her name being exploited for commercial reasons.

The Amsterdam foundation runs the museum where Frank and her family hid for much of the war. Her *Diary* records the fugitive family's daily life.

The Basel fund, established by her father, Otto, the only member of the immediate family to have survived, owns the copyright of the girl's diaries, collects the royalties (25 million copies have been sold) and uses the interest to fund educational work on the Holocaust, stage exhibitions and help to maintain the Yad Vashem memorial in Israel.

About 600,000 visitors a year go to the house where the girl hid and now the museum wants to expand, at a cost of £7 million. The Swiss fund has offered about £200,000.

To help to raise more money for the museum, the Amsterdam foundation has been trying to make more use of the Anne Frank name. The Swiss fund, feeling that the world could be swamped with Anne Frank T-shirts or coffee mugs, is determined that it should maintain exclusive rights. The issue is to be resolved by Swiss judges.



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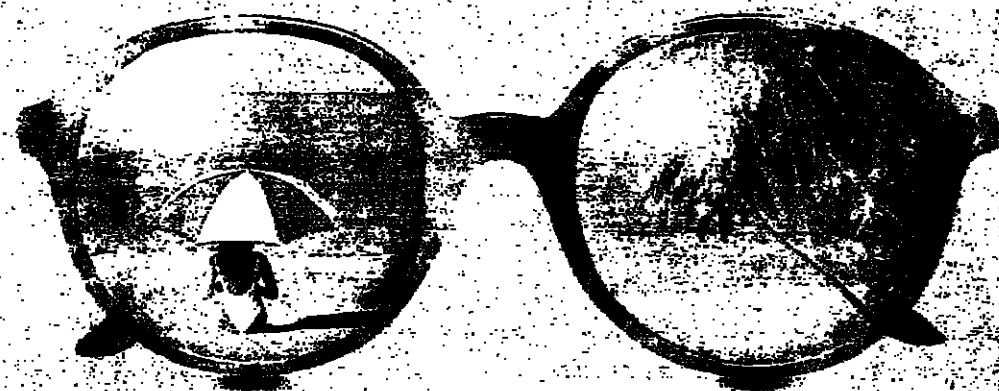
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# Female relation will accompany Mandela on visit

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

A WOMAN, whose identity has not yet been disclosed, will accompany President Mandela of South Africa during his four-day state visit to Britain in July, his office has announced. They will stay at Buckingham Palace.

The state visit is the first by a South African head of state to Britain and comes after an invitation from the Queen last year. Parks Mankahlama, the President's spokesman, said yesterday that no final decision had been taken about who would accompany Mr Mandela. He confirmed, however, that the President's relation, Rochelle Mkhara, was the front-runner. "He uses quite a few people to accompany him," Mr Mankahlama said. "But recently he has spent more time with her than anyone else."

Miss Mkhara, 25, who lives at the President's home in Johannesburg's northern suburbs, first appeared during the Queen's visit to South Africa last March and has since been at the President's side for many public occasions. She is Mr Mandela's granddaughter, but only in the sense of the extended African family. Both are members of the royal house of the



Mkhara: Mandela enjoys her youthful company

Tembu clan, which is the largest single clan in the Transkei.

Mr Mandela was born and spent the early part of his life in the Transkei in the Eastern Cape before leaving for Johannesburg to avoid an arranged marriage. Miss Mkhara is a daughter of Princess Judith, a sister of Sabata Dalindyebo,

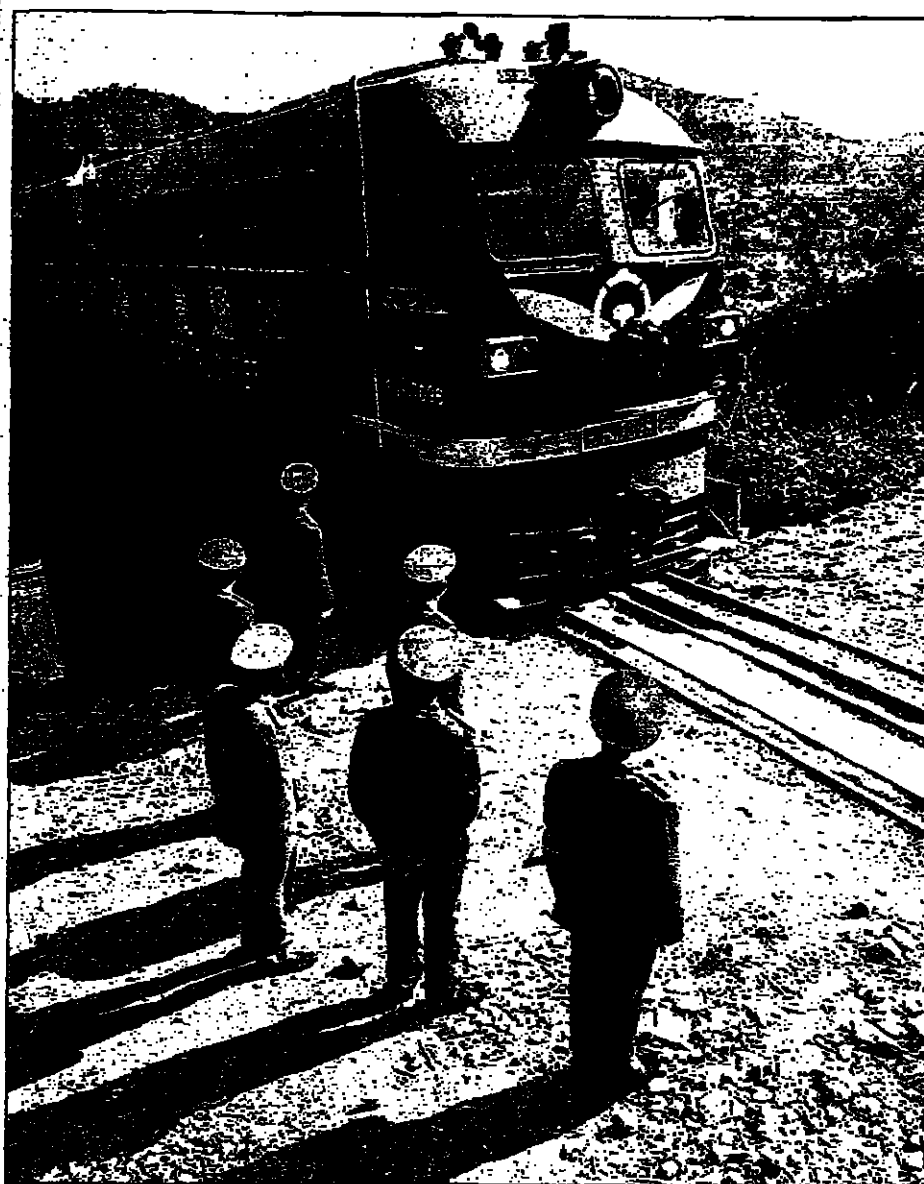
the paramount chief of the Tembu, who died in exile in 1986 in Lusaka where he was a respected member of the African National Congress.

Since separating from his wife, Winnie, Mr Mandela has struggled to find a regular companion for public occasions and visits. Their daughter, Princess Zenani Dlamini, who is married to a Swazi prince, accompanied the President at his inauguration in May 1994 and their youngest daughter, Zinda Mandela-Hlongwane, has also helped on occasion.

Late last year, Miss Mkhara accompanied the President on a state visit to India. She is known to be warm and gregarious and Mr Mandela clearly relishes her youthful company.

The Queen can expect a lively few days. During a state visit to America Mr Mandela dined in New York's streets before first light. He recently admitted that he gives his security officials endless headaches. Mr Mankahlama said: "He wakes early and he will insist on walking early in the morning," he said. "But I do not think it will be a problem for the Royal Family."

## Ties renewed after war between communist neighbours



The first train from China in 17 years arrives at Dong Dang, in Vietnam yesterday

## Vietnam and China reopen rail lines to extend trade links

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HEKOU, CHINA

CHINA and Vietnam, two of the world's last surviving communist powers, yesterday reopened two railway lines between them, indicating a gradual warming of relations. The routes have been closed since the two countries were at war in 1979.

A Vietnamese train bearing the red flags of the neighbouring countries made the first crossing, carrying officials from both sides over the bridge between Hekou in China's southwest Yunnan province and Lao Cai. There was no effusiveness, however, and little sense of comradeship during the formal ceremonies on either side of the border.

The rail line gives the economically burgeoning Yunnan easier access to the sea at the port of Haiphong in Vietnam. Analysts noted that the re-establishment of rail links at Hekou and about 150 miles to the east, between Pingxiang and the Vietnamese town of Dong Dang, stems not from sentiment but from the countries' pragmatic need to develop their economies and trade.

Lao Cai was devastated by Chinese forces during the 1979 war, but buildings have sprung up as part of the

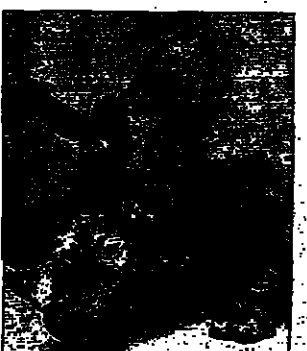
Vietnamese economic boom of the past few years. The rugged rural areas around Pingxiang north of Hekou are dotted with graves and memorials to the fallen Chinese from the battles of 1979, when China launched what it called a "counter-attack in self defence" after the Vietnamese had invaded Cambodia to overthrow Peking's ally, Pol Pot, in response to Khmer Rouge attacks into Vietnam.

To the surprise of outsiders, Vietnamese forces, smaller than the opposing army but battle-hardened after their war with America, inflicted heavy casualties on the People's Liberation Army. It was 12 years before Hanoi and Peking normalised ties. Relations remain prickly, however, after clashes in the potentially oil-rich Paracel Islands and China's claim to the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea over which Vietnam also says it has sovereignty.

In Hanoi, the reopening of the railways has been hailed as a landmark in relations, coming more than three years after the road link was restored, which prompted a trade boom worth an estimated \$900 million (\$585 million) last year.

## Sudanese poachers threaten last of white rhinos

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI



White rhino, only 33 left in Garamba park

THE world's last population of Northern white rhinoceroses in the wild is threatened with extinction as a result of southern Sudanese refugee and guerrilla poaching that has devastated Zaire's Garamba National Park, the World Wide Fund for Nature reported yesterday.

Impoverished and poorly equipped Zairean park wardens have fought 121 battles with the heavily armed Sudanese over the past three years; last year they clashed 25 times with the poachers, who cross into the Garamba park from

neighbouring Sudan. The park, which was designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations, covers an area of 1,892sq miles and is policed by about 60 game wardens funded by the WWF and other conservation groups. The collapse of Zaire's administration means, however, that the \$1 million (£653,000) needed to keep the rainforest area alive must be found from overseas donors.

Only 33 Northern white rhinos, just enough to maintain the species in the wild, remain in Garamba, where for the past decade they have been studied and protected by the game wardens and Dr Kes Hillman-Smith, the British-born environmentalist, and her husband

Fraser Smith, a South African. The Southern white rhino, which was saved from extinction by the Natal Parks Board in KwaZulu/Natal, is found in South Africa and Zimbabwe. White rhino, poached for their horns like their black cousins, are especially easy prey for poachers because they are short-sighted and meek.

Fighting between southern Sudanese rebels and the Arab-dominated northern army have forced 80,000 refugees into the countryside around Garamba during the past two years. They have slaughtered an estimated 25,000 buffalo for meat and the WWF said that the 33 rhinos could be at risk if the poachers move south.

## Perry attack widens China rift

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

THE United States has accused China of failing to behave "like a responsible world power" in a move guaranteed to deepen the rift between the countries.

In a speech to the National Defence University in Washington, William Perry, the Defence Secretary, told Peking "to start sending the right message". He also made inflammatory remarks about China's foreign sales of

nuclear weapons technology, military threats to Taiwan, and abuse of human rights, together with a suggestion for an Asian forum on security.

Mr Perry's speech marked a step away from the Administration's attempt to avoid further damaging Sino-US relations.

During recent months a number of developments have forced the White House, which is constantly being chided by the Republican Right to get tough with Peking, to speak less of "constructive

engagement" and more of "very grave consequences". Last August, Mr Perry described war games conducted by China near Taiwan as "unhelpful". However, China has continued to pirate American electronics and other intellectual property.

Human rights in China also continue to be a sore point for Washington, but the issue that helped to provoke the Perry speech is China's alleged sales to Pakistan of magnets used to refine weapons-grade plutonium.

### ADVERTISEMENT

This offer notice, which is published on 15 February 1996, is issued in compliance with the requirements of The London Stock Exchange Limited (the "London Stock Exchange"). It should be read in conjunction with the prospectus dated 14 February 1996 (the "Prospectus") relating to The Fleming Worldwide Income Investment Trust plc (the "Company"), which has been published and alone contains full details of the Company. Terms defined in the Prospectus shall have the same meanings when used in this offer notice. Application has been made to The London Stock Exchange for admission to the Official List of all the Zero Dividend Shares, Ordinary Income Shares and Dividend Shares which may be issued under the Proposals or on conversion of the Existing Shares (as described in the Prospectus).

A mini prospectus relating to the Placing and Offer for Subscription has also been produced and is available as set out below.

In applying for Shares in the Company you will be treated as applying on the basis of the information contained in the Prospectus and on the terms and conditions contained therein. Expressions defined in the Prospectus have the same meanings in this notice. Before deciding to apply for Shares, you should consider carefully whether they are a suitable investment for you. Their value and the income from them can go down as well as up. If you need advice, you should consult your own professional adviser.



## THE FLEMING WORLDWIDE INCOME INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

(Incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Act 1985 with registered number 3072274)

Issue sponsored by  
**Robert Fleming & Co. Limited**  
of up to 250 million Ordinary Income Shares,  
250 million Zero Dividend Shares and 10 million Dividend Shares  
in connection with a  
**Placing and Offer for Subscription**  
and the acquisition of shares of  
**The Fleming International High Income Investment Trust Plc**

### Application from outside the United Kingdom

No person receiving a copy of this offer notice and Application Form in any territory other than the United Kingdom may treat the same as constituting an invitation or offer to him nor should he in any event use such Application Form, unless, in the relevant territory, such an invitation or offer could lawfully be made to him or such Application Form could lawfully be used without contravention of any registration or other legal requirements. It is the responsibility of any person contravening of any registration or other legal requirements, including obtaining any requisite governmental or other consents, observing any other formalities required to be observed in such territory and paying any issue, transfer or other taxes required to be paid in such territory.

### Availability of the mini prospectus and of the Prospectus

Copies of the Prospectus and the mini prospectus, including Application Forms, can be obtained during normal business hours up to and including Wednesday, 13 March, 1996 from the following:

Fleming Investment Trust Management Limited, 25 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7DR Tel: 0171 382 8800  
Greig Middleton & Co. Limited, 66 Wilson Street, London EC2A 2BL Tel: 0171 392 4000  
James Capel & Co. Limited, Thames Exchange, 10 Queen Street Place, London EC4R 1BL Tel: 0171 621 0011

Copies of the Prospectus may also be collected during normal business hours from the Company Announcements Office, The London Stock Exchange, Stock Exchange Tower, Capel Court Entrance, off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2 until 16 February, 1996.

### Application Form

An Application Form in respect of the Offer for Subscription is set out alongside, together with a guide on how to complete it. Completed Application Forms should be returned by hand or by post to Lloyd's Bank Registrars, Receiving Bank Services, Ground Floor, PO Box 1000, Anthon House, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL or by hand only to Robert Fleming & Co. Limited, 25 Copthall Avenue, London EC2, in each case so as to be received not later than 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 13 March, 1996.

### Application Form

Important - Before completing this form, you should read the accompanying notes

All applicants must complete boxes 1-4 (please use BLACK INK and BLOCK CAPITALS)

#### 1. Application (see section 1.2 of the Prospectus)

I/We offer to subscribe for  Units at £1 each  
or  Ordinary Income Shares at 60p each  
or  Zero Dividend Shares at 40p each

In The Fleming Worldwide Income Investment Trust plc, subject to the Terms and Conditions of Application set out in the Prospectus and mini prospectus dated 14 February 1996, and I/We attach a cheque or bankers draft for the amount payable of £  representing the total cost of the Shares and/or Units applied for.

#### 2. Personal Details

Mr/Ms/Ms or Title  Address   
Postcode   
Telephone (optional)

Fleming Investment Trusts Share Plan Account Number (if applicable)

#### 3. Signature

Signature  Date  1996

#### 4. Cheque or Bankers' Draft

☐ Please make your cheque or bankers' draft payable to Robert Fleming & Co. Limited, cross it "Not Negotiable" and pin it here.

#### 5. Joint Applications

Mr/Ms/Ms or Title  Mr/Ms/Ms or Title  Mr/Ms/Ms or Title   
Surname  Surname  Surname   
Signature  Signature  Signature

Intermediaries claiming commission should stamp the box below

Stamp of intermediary	FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	
	Units Allotted	Ordinary Income Shares Allotted
		Zero Dividend Shares Allotted
SIO and Membership Number	Commission Payable	

### Notes on how to complete the Application Form

All applicants must complete boxes 1-5

#### 1. Application

Fill in the figures for the number of Units or Ordinary Income Shares or Zero Dividend Shares for which you wish to apply. You may apply for other Units or Ordinary Income Shares or Zero Dividend Shares only for two or more classes of currency but you must use a separate Application Form in respect of each class. Photocopied forms may be used and additional Application Forms are available by telephoning the Receiving Bank Services on 020 7553 1000 or from one of the Receiving Bank Services. Availability of the said prospectus and of the Prospectus. If you are applying for two or more types of currency, you may apply for different numbers of Units, Ordinary Income Shares and Zero Dividend Shares.

Zero Dividend Shares, Ordinary Income Shares and Units are being offered at 40p, 60p and £1 each respectively. The minimum application is £2,000, i.e. for 5,000 Zero Dividend Shares or 4,000 Ordinary Income Shares or 2,000 Units. In order that only one number of each class of Shares is issued, applications of up to £22,000 must be in multiples of £2,000, applications above £22,000 and up to £24,000 in multiples of £2,000 and applications above £24,000 in multiples of £2,000, equivalent to 15,000 Zero Dividend Shares or 10,000 Ordinary Income Shares or 5,000 Units.

Set out below are all the possible sizes of application up to £24,000, together with the relevant number of Shares or Units to be applied for on the Application Form.

Number of Shares or Units to be applied for			
Amount of Application	Zero Dividend Shares	Ordinary Income Shares	Units
£2,000	5,000	4,000	2,000
£4,000	10,000	8,000	4,000
£6,000	15,000	12,000	6,000
£8,000	20,000	16,000	8,000
£10,000	25,000	20,000	10,000
£12,000	30,000	24,000	12,000
£14,000	35,000	28,000	14,000
£16,000	40,000	32,000	16,000
£18,000	45,000	36,000	18,000
£20,000	50,000	40,000	20,000
£22,000	55,000	44,000	22,000
£24,000	60,000	48,000	24,000

Fill in the figures for the total amount payable in £1 per Unit or 60p per Ordinary Income Share or 40p per Zero Dividend Share.

#### 2. Personal Details

Fill in the block explicitly the full name and address of the applicant.

If this application is being made jointly with other persons, please read Note 5 before completing this 2.

#### 3. Signature

The application must be signed by the applicant or by a person authorised to do so under a power of attorney. The power of attorney for a copy of the Prospectus is available on request.

A corporation should sign under the hand of a duly authorised official, whose representative capacity must be stated.

#### 4. Cheque or Bankers' Draft

Pin a cheque or bankers' draft for the exact amount shown in Box 1 to your completed Application Form. Your cheque or bankers' draft must be made payable to "Robert Fleming & Co. Limited" and crossed "Not Negotiable".

Your payment must refer solely to this application. No receipt will be issued.

Your cheque or bankers' draft must be drawn on a bank branch in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and must bear a United Kingdom bank sort code number to the right hand corner. If you do not have a cheque account, you can obtain a cheque from your banking account or bank branch.

An application after being accompanied by a cheque drawn by someone other than the applicant(s), has applicants are subject to usual paragraph 7 of the Terms and Conditions set out in Part 5 of the Prospectus before following this course. Any monies returned will be sent by cheque crossed "Not Negotiable A/C Payee Only" in favour of the Receiving Bank.

#### 5. Joint Applications

Another person may sign on behalf of any joint applicant if that person is duly authorised to do so under a power of attorney. The power of attorney for a copy of the Prospectus is available on request.

Certificates for Units and/or Ordinary Income Shares and/or Zero Dividend Shares, cheques and other correspondence will be sent to the address in Box 2.

If you make a joint application, you will not be able to transfer Units or Shares after a F22. If you are interested in transferring Units or Shares after a F22, you should apply in your own name.

#### Instructions for delivery of completed Application Form

Completed Application Forms should be sent by post or delivered by hand to Lloyd's Bank Registrars, Receiving Bank Services, PO Box 1000, Ground Floor, Anthon House, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL, or delivered by hand only to Robert Fleming & Co. Limited, 25 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7DR, in each case so as to be received not later than 10.00 a.m. on 13 March, 1996. If you post your Application Form, you are recommended to use first class post and to allow at least one day for delivery.



## Cream, foundation and mascara in your make-up bag could be a health hazard

One are the days when women lined their eyes with lead and thus poisoned their bodies; but the stuff of modern beauty is still fraught with health and hygiene hazards.

Musty old make-up and moisturisers lurking in the bottom of our cosmetic bags can harbour bacteria that have been absorbed from our hands or the air. If the bacteria get into broken or vulnerable skin, facial infections and rashes can develop.

Bacteria do not breed in non-aqueous conditions, so powdery substances such as blusher are unlikely to become infected, but water-based substances like creams, foundations and mascaras are susceptible to contamination.

Dr Andrew Griffith, consultant dermatologist at St John's Institute of Dermatology at St Thomas' Hospital, says that contamination generally occurs not within the cosmetic pot but when human hands infect the product. Through careless hygiene, the organisms that inhabit everyday life end up on your hands and can be transferred to, for example, your moisturiser.

"You may have washed the dishes, stroked the dog, put your pans away or used the remote

"The best advice is don't share any of your make-up with a friend and don't use any creams on broken or infected skin"

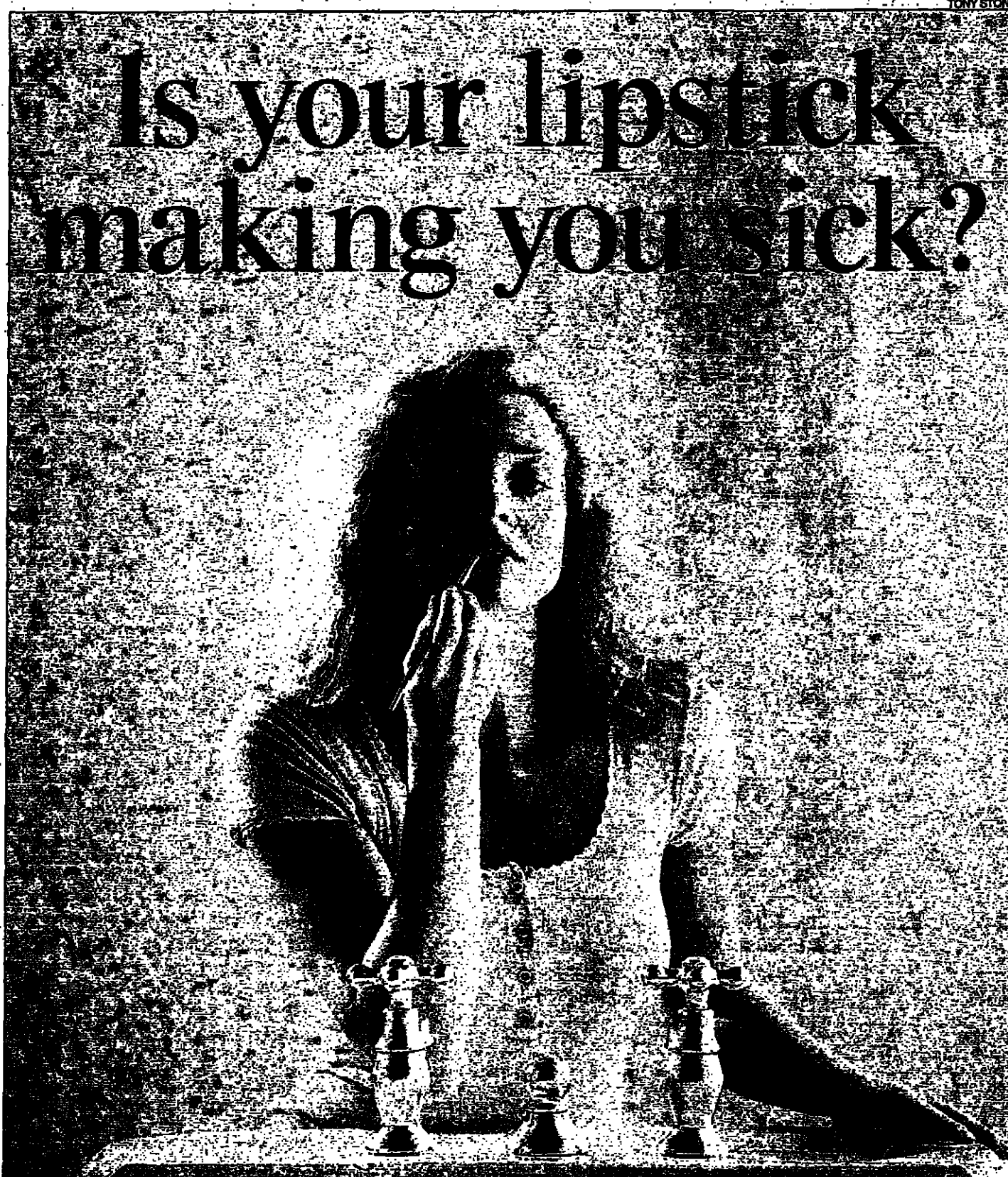
control before you put your moisturiser on," he says. "Once a tube or pot is opened you can transfer these germs from the tips of your finger to the top of the tube or into the tub. Then it is no longer sterile, and there is a risk of the germs being multiplied."

The process is circular. "If you have rubbed a septic spot with your fingers and then placed your fingers back into the pot you can transmit it back on to your face or skin, leading to infection," Dr Griffith says. "People who suffer from eczema or chapped skin are especially vulnerable." The main bacterial culprits are *Pseudomonas*, *E. coli* and *Proteus*, which often grow in enclosed passages where there is little oxygen — between the toes or in the nasal passages. These can be transferred by careless hygiene into an open wound, where they prevent the wound from healing or lead to ulceration and septic spots.

Tubs left open without their lids can also absorb bacteria from the air, leading to contamination.

To counteract these problems, most cosmetic companies use a mixture of low-allergy preservative chemicals and natural preparations such as lactic acid, which has antiseptic qualities, to help to protect the product. Some contain formaldehyde, also a preservative. Unfortunately, however, some people find they are allergic to the very ingredients meant to combat contamination.

Michael Finnerty, head of cosmetics at Boots, says a very small



Hands that do dishes and then put on make-up or moisturisers can transmit a variety of bacteria, causing infections and rashes

minority of people are affected by preservatives. "Preservatives are designed to kill organisms, which means they can potentially be irritant to all living things," he says. "But they are usually present at a very low level and we try to choose the most non-toxic ingredients." A spokesman for the Body Shop Colourings range says that a very low level of preservatives is added during production, which does not affect performance.

Under an EC directive effective from January 1 next year, all cosmetics companies will be required to list ingredients, including preservatives, on the packaging. Cosmetics are subjected to rigorous testing, by microbiologists in the lab. Some cosmetic products, such as those from L'Oréal and Lancôme, are also subjected to two months of rigorous "challenge test-

ing", in which various micro-organisms are introduced to samples. "We are always touching other people's organisms but most of them are harmless — what we're trying to do is prevent them from colonising the product," Mr Finnerty says.

The products are initially sterile as they are made up under extremely hygienic conditions, so there is unlikely to be any build-up of contamination before they are opened; after they are opened, products can be protected but cannot disinfect themselves.

The good news is that a little common sense keeps most potential infections at bay. "Cosmetics are very 'personal'," says Mr Finnerty. "Don't share any of your make-up with a friend and don't

use creams on broken or infected skin. If a piece of chocolate falls on the ground you wouldn't pick it up and eat it, so why treat your cosmetics any differently?"

Brushes should be washed after use and container lids should be kept tightly shut. Other precautions include using pump dispensers or sprays for moisturisers and foundations. Some cosmetic experts recommend using a spatula to scoop cream from the pot so that your hand does not come into contact with it.

Dermatologists and cosmetic companies alike advise throwing out products that have been loitering on your shelves for a suspiciously long time. "As a general rule our products have a shelf life of three years, but that is different from usage life," a Colourings spokesman says. "Unopened mas-

cara can have a shelf life of three years, but once it is opened and exposed to the air it lasts around a year, before it ought to be thrown out." Under the new EC directive, any product that will deteriorate in less than 30 months must carry its date of manufacture on the label.

"Any cosmetics, from lipsticks to foundations, if kept for any length of time, are likely to spoil or deteriorate. This does not necessarily mean that they're dangerous — most of them probably just don't function as well any more — but it's best to not take any risks," Mr Finnerty says.

"It's a bit like getting a verruca from a swimming pool," Dr Griffith adds. "You don't see the germs that put it there but that doesn't make it any less unpleasant."

KATHRYN KNIGHT

## Woman's choice

New light on the effect of hysterectomy

FOR many women a hysterectomy is life-saving, and those who have regular heavy bleeding caused by uterine disease will find their life revolutionised by one. But for many others there is no obvious cause for heavy periods — such patients are described as having dysfunctional uterine bleeding and their treatment is not so clear-cut. In the past, hysterectomy was undertaken rather more readily if the patient with heavy bleeding was rich. The situation is now different.

A woman who has had no further education is 12 times more likely to have a hysterectomy than is a graduate. It may be that less well-educated women tend to have had larger families and therefore bulkier uteruses, which bleed more profusely. Also, it is possible that any anaemia is less easily counteracted when money is in short supply.

There is no doubt that dysfunctional uterine bleeding is debilitating, inconvenient, and often needs surgical intervention. There is, however, vehement argument as to whether the women would have been more cheerful if they had kept their wombs, and instead of a hysterectomy had undergone uterine ablation — the removal of the lining of the uterus by either laser or cautery.

Many of the answers to questions about the merits of hysterectomy and uterine ablation have now been answered by a research project carried out by psychiatrists, gynaecologists and statisticians at Aberdeen University.

The researchers, who have reported their findings in the *British Medical Journal*, allocated 204 women who needed surgery into three groups at random. A third had a hysterectomy, a third a laser treatment, and a third had surgical removal of their uterine lining but the uterus was left intact.

The patients did well and after any of the three procedures were equally likely to feel less depressed and anxious. After a year, there was no difference in the three groups in the incidence of marital disharmony, psychosocial problems or psychiatric disease.

Very importantly, and contrary to the commonly held belief, hysterectomy was unrelated to psychiatric illness and the patients' marriages were unaffected.

Some 27 per cent noticed an increased sexual interest, 25 per cent reported a loss of sexual drive and in the others the libido was unaltered.

There are, of course, physical advantages in some cases in having endometrial ablation.



MEDICAL BRIEFING  
Dr Thomas Stuttford

## Footsore

LEATHER shoes, properly stitched and with leather soles, are often assumed to lead to healthy feet. Certainly, feet encased in old-fashioned Oxford-style shoes are less sweaty and less likely to develop fungal infections — these are the ideal footwear of every parent and drill sergeant.

But however well leather may breathe, it is also hard and unyielding, and does not absorb the shock generated by pounding pavements, or even striding over open countryside.

A study reported in the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* and *Pulse* magazine has compared the pressure to which feet are subjected when a patient wears no shoes, trainer-type running shoes, or leather-soled walking shoes.

If the foot is healthy, leather shoes may well be best. But if the patient is diabetic, with poor circulation and a diseased nerve supply, the differences in the amount of pressure experienced may be important.

Leather-soled shoes provided no more relief from pressure

than being barefoot, whereas running shoes took a third of the pressure off the foot. In the author's opinion this difference could help to prevent the formation of diabetic ulcers, which are always difficult to heal, on patients' feet.

## In the clear

MPs can be assured that however much Sir Richard Scott's revelations may damage their reputations, their health is safe from the water supply.

The *Journal Doctor* reports that measures to rid the Palace of Westminster's hot-water system of high levels of the legionella bacteria have been successful. Boiling water and chlorine have been pumped through the pipes. For a time, it is reported, the Speaker was unable to live in her own apartments.

Legionnaires' Disease is particularly liable to attack middle-aged men, who are more at risk if they drink heavily. It is also often associated with mental confusion and lethargy — not a disease which should be allowed to infect the Commons.

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## When reading is a race with time

BY TEATIME today, hundreds of politicians, journalists and civil servants will be attempting an instant course in speed reading. But the 1,800-page Scott report on the arms-to-Iraq affair will test even the most seasoned expert when it is made public after Prime Minister's Questions at 3.30pm.

The technique of speed reading was invented in the 1930s by Evelyn Wood, an American educator. An early pioneer of special-needs education, Ms Wood found that her students in Salt Lake City achieved better results if they were able to read faster than average. She taught them to achieve rates of 1,000 words a minute — the equivalent of polishing off *Dr Zhivago* in an hour.

Her heyday was in the 1960s, when President Kennedy sent dozens of his White House staff on her courses in Washington. It was a tradition followed by President Carter, who took pride in his rapid reading.

The most successful exponent of Ms Wood's classes claimed to be able to finish George Orwell's *Animal*

Farm in 25 minutes. But even her most brilliant students could not match the panache of George Bernard Shaw: his party trick was to read the left and right hand pages of a book simultaneously — and then take questions.

Helena Kennedy, QC, is typical of the modern breed of professionals who are expected to read and digest quickly.

"Most of us work out that the introductory paragraphs in documents are often verbiage," she says. "The trouble, from a lawyer's point of view, is that the jewel is often hidden away in the stuff that looks like verbiage."

Giles Gordon, the literary agent to Sue Townsend, Fay Weldon and Barry Unsworth, claims he is the world's slowest reader. "My wife is always telling me to get a move on with manuscripts, but I can't help it. It's a great disadvantage for a literary agent."

"I am envious of people like Shaw who were able to read so fast. I knew a man once who said he could read a 300-page novel in 40 minutes."

Martyn Goff, who administers the Booker Prize, handing over books to the

judges — fears that quality declines with speed reading. "The judges begin their work in February and have six months to read 140 books," he says.

"By June they are reading quite fast, and by July they are going at an even faster rate."

I'm afraid to say that I think the books suffer. A book, or even the Scott report, is like a fine meal. You might be able to get the main taste if you bolt it down — but you won't get all the finer flavours."

EMMA WILKINS

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## Alan Coren



■ We used to say that Britain could take it, now we can't even take this

I have watched this famous island descending incontinently, fecklessly, the stairway which leads to a dark gulf. It is a fine broad stairway at the beginning, but after a bit the carpet ends. A little further on there are only flagstones, and a little further on still these break beneath your feet. And I have to tell you that, this morning, the stairway is in even shakier nick than it was when Winston stood where I am standing now. For I have just been passed by Britannia, shuffling down, and, as she lurched, something caught the light of her guttering candle which led me to fear that it will very soon be all up with this island race.

I had, of course, grown used to the deteriorating state of her upper lip, now so limp that it hangs over her lower jaw, and to that weakening of her backbone to the point where one good sneeze could well send all her vertebrae clattering into her left boot, but the glint in the candlelight was something new. It was a trickle from her nostril. Britannia, I have to tell you, was snivelling. She was breaking up. She could not take it.

She was breaking up because she could not take the breaking up of Take That. I know this, because I know that that is why the Samaritans, in addition to everything else they have on their plate in these perilous times, have set up an emergency helpline to counsel the thousands of suicidal young Britons who lack the fibre to cope with the news.

Dear God, so is it come to this? Is that generation which is our future's only hope so ill-equipped to handle setback that the dismantling of a billionaire boy band which has decided henceforth to make its billions in individual piles for easier counting has them chucking themselves off suspension bridges?

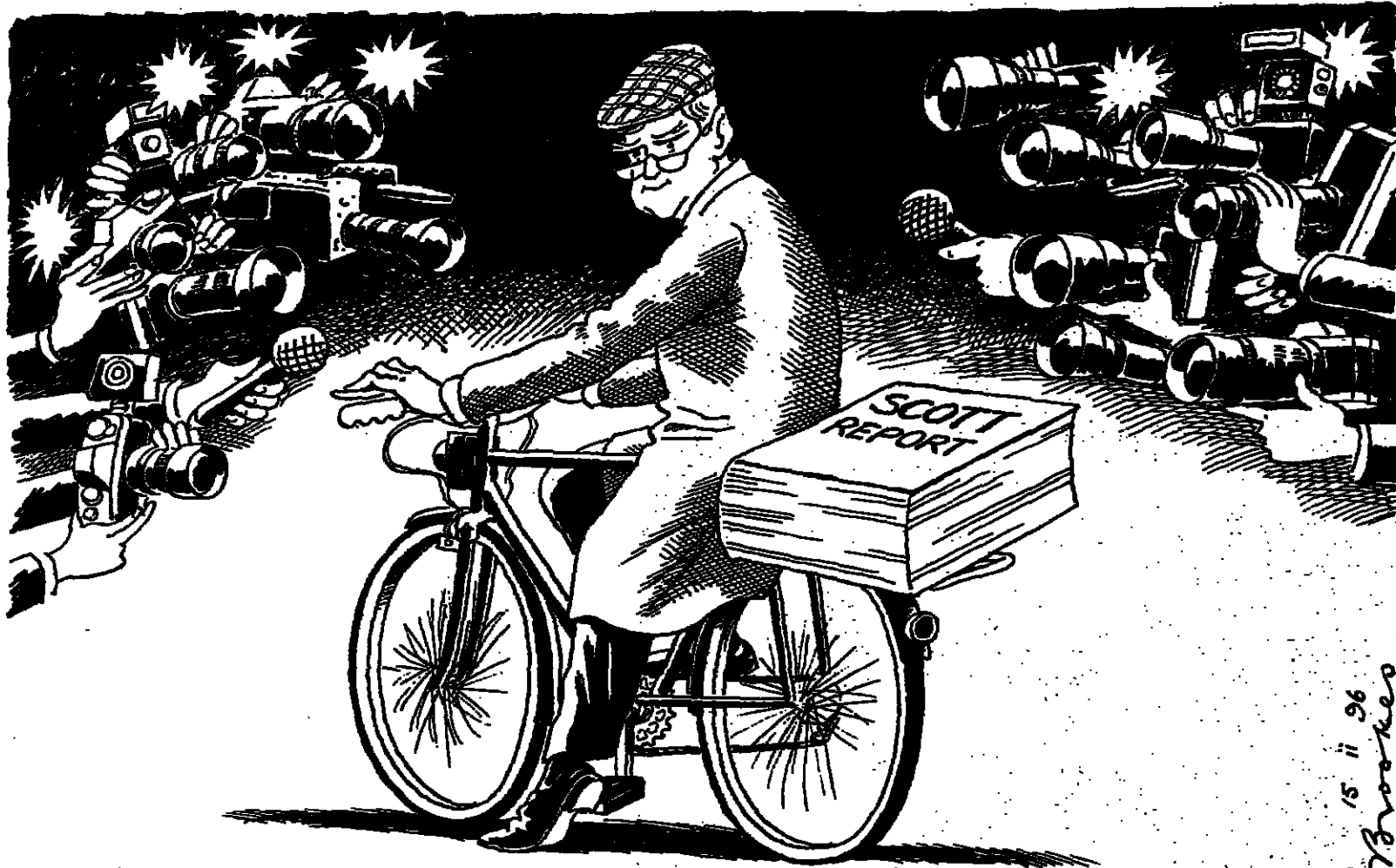
We were not ever thus. Perhaps my earliest memory of my father is his return from six years of bitter war in a demob suit three sizes too large only to find that Wilson, Kepple and Betty had split up. Betty, voluptuous catalyst of an Egyptian sand dance the memory of which had kept my old man going even in the darkest hours of battle, had decided to go her own way. Did he put the souvenir Luger to his temple? He did not. He told my mother to cheer up, old girl, they'll find another Betty, and he put the kettle on while she, no less stoic, sat down at the scullery table and set about shortening his trousers. Life had to go on.

I learnt much from them. When, a few years later, I heard at the age of 12 that *The Road to Bali* was to be Hope and Crosby's last film together, I did not rope my young throat to an attic joist and kick away the bentwood chair, I went round to David Bunyan's house, and Dave said, "Never mind, Abbott and Costello are still together," and we ran over to the allotments with our catapults, because the council gave you a shilling for each squirrel-tail, and you could get into the Southgate Odéon for that and still have three pence over for liquorice bootlaces.

I find it quite impossible to take on board the complete collapse of moral fibre and emotional resilience which one brief generation has brought: in yesterday's *Times*, our diarist noted that the switchboard at No 10 had been jammed by countless young people attempting to ring John Major to persuade him to change whatever Take That have for minds. Do you know that, when the Hope and Crosby news broke, it never even crossed mine to ring up Clement Attlee to beg his intervention?

Nor, a few years further on, when, in the sellsame month, Dean Martin parted from Jerry Lewis and Monty Sunshine left the Chris Barber Band to blow his clarinet elsewhere, did I for one moment consider pressing the *Macmillan* Government into service on the grounds that I had never had it so bad. I simply pulled myself together and cycled round to a girl called Sandra something to make a consolatory stab at what passed for sex in 1958.

But, as the commendably loyal Rolling Stones have it, it's all over now. We are a nation of weeds. In further evidence of which, I need cite only the fact that, when news broke of my non-appearance in my normal spot yesterday, fearful thousands rang *Esther Rantzen's* helpline to find out whether *The Times* and I had parted company. I hope none of them was you. I'd like to think my readers were made of sterner stuff.



Superstar Author: "Today has ended two years of absolute hell. I'm now going to have one hell of a party."

# Can America stand Pat?

Buchanan's anti-abortion conservatism is setting the pace — and could rock Clinton

Twice since the Second World War, the Republicans have nominated a conservative as their presidential candidate, Barry Goldwater in 1964 and Ronald Reagan in 1980. Goldwater lost, but Reagan won, going on to win a second term as well. Pat Buchanan has now emerged in the Iowa caucuses as the leading conservative candidate for the nomination in 1996. His candidature must therefore be taken seriously. He had already won the poorly attended Louisiana caucuses; he won 23 per cent of the vote in Iowa, against Senator Dole's 26 per cent. He has momentum, and some of his issues have momentum as well. A supporter has described Buchanan as "pro-gun, pro-life, pro-taxpayer".

His strongest issue is his opposition to abortion. Since 1980 the Republicans have had an anti-abortion plank in their presidential platform, but nothing much has happened as a result. The majority of active Republicans are now "pro-life" rather than "pro-choice". In the campaign so far, the pro-choice candidates have either dropped out, like Governor Wilson or Senator Specter, or decided not to run, like General Colin Powell. The only surviving candidate who could be called pro-choice is Steve Forbes, and he has been damaged by coming fourth in Iowa.

There is a division between two types of pro-life candidate. There are those, like Bob Dole himself, for whom the issue is secondary, an add-on to their campaigns. For Pat Buchanan, opposition to abortion is a defining issue; strong anti-abortion candidates took a total of 39 per cent of the Iowa vote, against 49 per cent for moderate pro-life candidates and 10 per cent for moderate pro-choice.

A large number of Republicans respond to Buchanan because they believe he means what he says about abortion, and the other front-runners do not. They think that Dole will be pro-life in the primaries, will straddle the issue in the election itself and will do nothing if elected president. They are almost certainly correct. In Britain, where abortion is a strong personal issue but hardly a party political issue at all, it seems surprising that abortion should be playing so central a part in American presidential politics. George Will, the leading right-wing columnist, gives this reason: "Americans are beginning to recoil from the fanaticism that has helped to produce this fact more than any quarter of all American pregnancies are

ended by abortions." That amounts to 1.5 million abortions a year. The right to have an abortion, as a matter of personal choice, was given to American women by the 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Roe v Wade*. This was a judge-made law, not legislation by elected politicians. There is no democratic way to challenge the Supreme Court, short of a constitutional amendment.

The Supreme Court also federalised the abortion law of the United States. Before 1973, this was a matter for the states themselves, and different states did in fact have different laws which reflected their different beliefs; since 1973, abortion has been a universal right under American law, derived by a process of remote judicial interpretation from the Constitution itself. Because it is a right, American abortion law is not subject to the medical limitations which are almost universal in European law. Recently, Congress has been trying to pass a law to ban the relatively small number of what are called partial-birth abortions. The procedure in these late abortions is shocking, but it has to be described if the emotions aroused by these horrors are to be understood.

In partial-birth abortions, to quote Ray Kerrison's well-researched article in the *New York Post*, "the baby is extracted feet first from the womb, and through the birth canal until all but its head is exposed. Surgical scissors are then thrust into the base of the baby's skull and the brain is sucked out by a catheter". In 1995 a bill banning this practice was passed by 288 to 139 votes in the House of Representatives, and by 54 to 44 votes in the Senate. It has now gone back to the House to consider two clauses which were added in the Senate. The White House has announced that President Clinton intends to veto this Bill on the grounds that it "eroded a woman's right to choose".

The pro-life campaigners are passionately angry at this proposed veto by the President. They feel that it is intolerable to live in a country where the President fights to protect the legality of such de-

testable practices, as intolerable as it would have been to live in Nazi Germany in the years of the Holocaust. They see the President of the United States as a wholly abhorrent and evil man.

This anger helps to fuel the Buchanan campaign. At present he is indeed the only Republican candidate whom anyone cares much about, one way or the other. Bob Dole is a very experienced politician and a good Republican. Lamar Alexander is a reasonable, folksy and popular figure. Steve Forbes may have the best understanding of the economic challenges America has to face. But Pat Buchanan is the only candidate who personifies a deeply felt cause. That is his strength.

Unfortunately, leaving aside his social conservatism, Buchanan is what has been called "the wrong sort of conservative". He is a nationalist rather than an internationalist, and a protectionist rather than a free-trader. He attracts those Americans who want their jobs to be protected from world competition. Such attitudes have considerable support in most countries; they are the basis of the voting power of Le Pen in France or even of Zhirinovskiy in Russia. Whatever view one might take of Buchanan's social conservatism, his nationalist economic populism could be a disaster for world trade.

Of course, he has not yet won the nomination, let alone the presidency. Yet, despite the view of many commentators, neither victory can be ruled out. He is a very experienced and relatively charismatic campaigner; he is his own speech writer; he is the best electioneer the Republicans have got. He will be strong in the Bible Belt of the South. He may do less well in the North-East, and the New Hampshire primary polls already suggest that Alexander may be doing better there. If Dole fades, as he well may, Alexander would become the "Stop Buchanan" candidate of the Republican centre, while Forbes might be the candidate of the Adam Smith conservatives.

William Rees-Mogg

## It all depends on Hume

Paul Bew looks

at Ulster's options after the bomb

We are on a knife edge. At the moment every effort is rightly being devoted to getting the peace process back under way. John Major rightly demands a renewed republican commitment to peace. Even now a consensus on elections leading to all-party negotiations might put pressure on some republican leaders to return to the world of democratic politics. There are signs of a softening of attitude to this part of the proposal on the part of the Irish Government and, more problematically, the SDLP: there is also some sign of Unionist softening on the Irish proposal for "proximity talks" (simultaneous talks under one roof, but not face to face). The hope then is that this phase of the IRA's campaign will be limited and short-lived — although some veteran IRA-watchers expect a campaign of unprecedented ferocity.

Gerry Adams is diminished by the Docklands bomb. Neither the British nor the Irish Government will now afford Mr Adams a public stage. In the Dublin is strongly supported by Seamus Mallon — though not, it would seem, John Hume. The White House, too, has doubts about Mr Adams, who is in the position of a company chairman who has been demoted to running the mailroom. Mr Adams's republican critics have a sharper grasp of his deficiencies as a politician than many media folk. They know that Sinn Féin leaders nurtured illusions of a secret deal in which John Major would sell out the Unionists.

Ironically, many Sinn Féin leaders have been signalling for a year that they might be in the market for a compromise. A united Ireland is not the only "democratic" option, said Michael McLaughlin. Jim Gibney offered to consider any political model valued by the peculiar characteristics of Irish history. For 25 years, the extremism of the IRA's method — violence — was logically linked to its objective, the expulsion of the Unionist community from the United Kingdom. Now, absurdly, the violence simply reflects ethnic resentment, because the British were thought not to be pushing the Unionists quickly enough towards a messy compromise, which would have contained many uncomfortable elements for the Northern majority. But British and Unionist reluctance was largely based on doubts about the peaceful intentions of the IRA, doubts which have just been amply confirmed.

There is a now a battle for "middle Ireland" — the moderate nationalists of North and South. Many of them are inclined to blame the outbreak of violence on British and Unionist intransigence. It was not so. Sir Patrick Mayhew spent all of 1994 saying that Dublin had to promise a removal of its formal claim to the North before he would agree to the framework document, but in the end he signed anyway. Both the Unionists and Sir Patrick insisted on decommissioning of arms before talks in 1995, only to waive this condition in 1996. Furthermore, John Major did not bin the Mitchell principles despite London's irritation with the patronising tone of some of the report, he accepted it fully, at most giving it a tweak by strengthening the emphasis on the electoral process.

The IRA, on the other hand, blew the Mitchell report apart in the Docklands. There is nothing in republican ideology to prevent Sinn Féin fighting Northern Ireland elections; on the other hand, that ideology is profoundly affronted by Mitchell's assumption of the illegality of IRA arms. It is all too clear now that talks based on the report were hardly an enticing prospect for the IRA if only because they would have involved decommissioning of arms before a settlement.

The Unionist leadership feels that precious time was lost by Dublin's slowness in seeing the potential of the electoral proposal as a way around the decommissioning impasse. Some, such as the Ulster Unionist MP Roy Beggs, now doubt the confidence-building effect of an election, given the all-too-palpable threat of violence.

In any case, the Unionists must reach out to constitutional nationalists, North and South, as never before. This means talks about cross-border institutions. It means educating their own supporters politically, which Mr Adams fumbled. For we may be moving back to the world of Sir Patrick Mayhew's Cambridge speech of September 1993, in which he envisaged a political accommodation being, between the moderate parties first. "Peace first, talks later" — the Albert Reynolds and John Hume approach — has triumphed in the meantime. The emphasis has been on the inclusion of extremists. But if the ceasefire has ended, and if it cannot be meaningfully restored, the political strategies based on it have gone too.

There is one bright point: the leaders of both the Ulster Unionists and the Irish Government have changed since 1992-93. The politicians now in place are more capable of making a deal; at a minimum, they could generate a better North-South atmosphere and prevent the build-up of a resentful nationalist mood which can only encourage IRA action. The big question, as always, is whether John Hume will allow such a deal. His striking new proposal for a referendum on violence and all-party talks is further proof of his democratic good faith.

The author is professor of politics at Queen's University, Belfast.

## Granted

A GROUP of green-minded folk which has criticised grants to farmers has itself received a subsidy of £30,000 from the European Union to investigate the reform of, er, subsidies.

The Agricultural Reform Group, which enjoys the sympathy of the Prince of Wales, and whose leading lights include Jonathan Porritt, will use the money to help pay for a conference on subsidies in Brussels later this year.

The conference is being organised by the outspoken Cambridge farmer Oliver Walston, who believes reform of the common agricultural policy is essential. "We have been given money to see how we can reform subsidies," he admits.

But Walston denies any bad faith in the group's successful application to Brussels for cash. "If I had come out against all subsidies in principle, it would be hypocritical," he said. "What I am saying is that many of the subsidies currently paid are stupid. The money we are getting from Brussels is exactly what most agricultural subsidy is not — it is targeted and has been given for a specific purpose."

Stephen Howe, the Editor of

*Farmers Weekly*, is unimpressed. "I do find it ironic that they should get a grant while at the same time criticising subsidies."

### Cash to ash

FOR THOSE who enjoy a leisurely puff, the ultimate cigar — a snip at an estimated \$2,000 — is now available for chomping. After a treasure hunt lasting two decades, a cache of cigars more than 130



Nuclear scientists succeed in splitting Take That

years old has been discovered in a country house in Ireland.

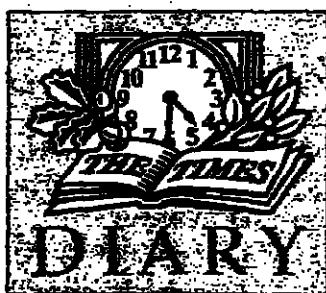
Simon Chase, of *Hunters & Frankau*, the London cigar importer, is beside himself with excitement. He says in *Country Life* that he heard rumours of these particular cigars in the 1970s.

"I knew there was a house in the west of Ireland whose owners had bought the whole annual crop of Havana during one year towards the end of the 19th century," he says. "The story kept melting into the Irish mists, but finally I tracked down what I believe to be the oldest smokable cigars in the land." They're still smokable, thanks to Ireland's damp climate, and an offer of \$1 million has come in from America for a box of 500. Which works out at \$1 per smoking second.

● Alistair Cooke, who is celebrating the 50 years of *Letters from America* on the wireless, says he has no intention of retiring. "If you retire, you keel over," he says robustly. His secret? Regular doses of barbituric acid — otherwise known as Scotch.

### Consolation

A LOVEBIRD has come to the aid of Lord Brocket as he begins his prison sentence for fraud. Dame Barbara Cartland has dispatched



a Valentine message. "I was extremely upset by the sentence. I have known him since he was a little boy, and he is a wonderful charming man," she explains. "He has done wonderful work for the St John Ambulance Brigade. I've written to him to say I will do anything I can to help while he is in prison."

### Wild West

TONY BLAIR is riding into a storm on the wilder fringes of politics over his plans for regional government. At a party meeting in Cambourne tonight, he will be up against the wrath of the Cornish nationalists.

The Labour leader, who advocates an authority for the whole of the South-West, has infuriated Mervyn Kernow, which wants its own government and intends to

picket the meeting. "The Devonians are the worst — they look down their noses at Cornish people, and they've taken our cream and pasties, thinking we're poor cousins," says Councillor Conan Trevenen Jenkin.

● A phone trilled the other day in the Eaton house of Lord Frederickson of Prince and Princess Michael of Kent. A passing pupil picked it up. "Hello," said a woman's voice. "I want to speak to Freddie Windsor." "Who is it?" drawled the youth. "Princess Michael of Kent," said she. "Yeah, and I'm the Queen of Sheba," came the retort.

### Come on, girls

MANY turned out to hear Edwina Currie on novel-writing at the Boyles lunch in London yesterday. But far more interesting was Germaine Greer on the dire state of female undergraduates. Lamenting the decline of the Lady Astor Dining Society, a female institution which closed some years ago, the Newnham don suggested that girls simply don't know how to have fun anymore.

Cambridge girls study too much, she said. "Chaps know how to enjoy life and get rid of unwelcome toxins. But women, while diligent and assiduous in their



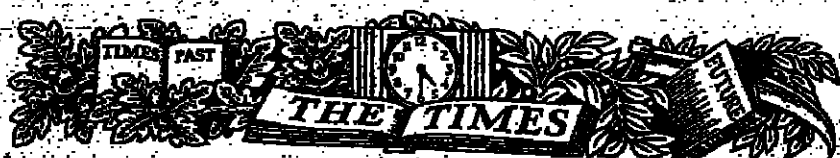
Greer: bottoms up

studies, don't know how to unwind. They should behave more outrageously."

So what does she have in mind? "Well, I'll say this. When a man bares himself and puts his bottom through a study window, it is regarded as a crime. When a group of men put their bottoms through a study window, it is regarded as high jinks." Extraordinary.

P.H.S





## REPORT DAY

The verdict on Scott will be slow but sure

Even before battle on the Scott report is joined today, the Government has handed the Opposition an advantage in the competition for the public's ear. John Major may cite "usual practice" and precedents from previous inquiries until he is blue in the face. When ministers have had eight days to pour over the report, the limits they are imposing today on access to it by everybody else — the Opposition, civil servants and the press — are ridiculous, and make them look ridiculous.

As keeper of the Tory image, Brian Mawhinney should have seen personally to the burning of Ian Lang's letter to Robin Cook. Mr Cook is the only Labour frontbencher permitted an advance peek at the report — and even he will have no more than a minute for every ten pages of it. To keep Mr Cook effectively under official guard while he speed-reads his way through this vast tome at the Department of Trade and Industry tomorrow looks bad enough. To pretend that this is entirely for Mr Cook's "own convenience and security" was to court general derision. As hapless Whitehall officials scrambled yesterday to express the Government's horror "at the suggestion of giving offence", Mr Cook was naturally loving every moment.

At this jockeying in Westminster might be of no more than passing interest to the general public, were it not that the charge of ministerial deception is at the core of Sir Richard Scott's investigation. If Mr Major was not prepared to yield to Opposition demands for pre-publication access, or even to the Speaker, he should have headed the protests twice made by Sir Richard himself. MPs will have precisely 10 minutes in which to grab their copies of an 1800-page report before Mr Lang rises to make his statement today. Newspapers will be handicapped too by the late provision of too few copies of a report which only the serious press can properly present to the public.

The effect of all this is inevitably to suggest to voters that the Government has guilty secrets which it is desperate to obscure. Its attempts at news management techniques are not merely inept; they look, quite simply, undemocratic. Whatever the report turns out to say, the first impression that the Government is running scared of something will endure. Mr Major replies that MPs will have 11 days to pour over what Sir Richard has, finally concluded, before Parliament assembles for a full debate. But for those 11 days, the Government has heated a rack for itself, on which its reputation will continue to burn.

Maybe Mr Major believes that the report clears him, and all the vital players in the Government, of wrong-doing, that no heads will therefore have to roll and that the more excitement he can create in the Opposition benches prior to publication, the more crestfallen they will be when they see the text. It is, indeed, possible that the public's interest in this enormously complex inquiry will fall rapidly if the main faults are found by Sir Richard to lie with the Whitehall machine. But the better the news, the happier the Government should be to let daylight shine on Sir Richard's pages while public interest is at its height. If the news is bad, the impression of a continued desire to hide the truth can only cast the Government's defence in the worst possible light.

The capacity of this Prime Minister to let himself be knocked off balance has long been the despair of his party. Only this Monday, he was at his earnest best: the IRA's return to the bomb brought out in him an element of true statesmanship. It is depressing that he should have lost so little time in refurbishing his reputation for getting out his shovel whenever he sees a hole ahead. It is scarcely credible that the occasion should be the publication of a long-awaited report, the purpose of which is to shine a torch into the heart of government.

## AND SO TO NEW HAMPSHIRE

Alexander is now the top alternative to Dole

The voters of Iowa have made the American presidential contest much clearer. Only one candidate, other than Senator Robert Dole, appears capable both of capturing the Republican nomination and of offering a serious challenge to Bill Clinton in November. That man is Andrew Lamar Alexander, who finished a respectable third in the caucuses with 18 per cent on Monday night. Patrick Buchanan is too extreme to be either nominated or elected. Phil Gramm threw in the towel last night. The candidacy of Steve Forbes is severely crippled. If it is not to be the Senate majority leader who remains the solid favourite, then New Hampshire voters will have to give a big push to Mr Alexander next Wednesday.

The former Governor of Tennessee is an interesting and attractive possibility. He was a highly successful governor during his two terms, promoting far-reaching school reform, modernising transport and drawing record levels of investment into the state. From there he went on to be President of the University of Tennessee and Secretary of Education under President Bush.

His fortunes in this contest so far have been based less on his impressive record in office than on his ability, despite that background, to project himself as an outsider. Like so many before him, including the current incumbent, he is running for Washington by running against it. Mr Alexander is a long-standing populist. He won the state governorship in 1978 after a campaign in which he walked 1,000 miles across Tennessee wearing his trademark red and black lumberjack shirt. His speeches were enlivened by his varied talent with musical instruments. The walking shirts, and instruments, have been widely witnessed in New Hampshire over the past two years. With what effect we shall shortly see.

## MARCEL AND JOAN

Writers' rooms lead into writers' lives

From 1910 until 1919, three years before his death, Marcel Proust spent most of his time in an enormous bedroom in his flat on the Boulevard Haussmann. The room had cork panels nailed to the walls and ceilings to keep out the noise of traffic, long blue curtains that were always drawn and a perpetual smell of fumigation in the room to help his asthma. Here, lying in bed in layers of sweaters, he wrote his novels.

Sequestered from the world, until the late evening when he ventured out to those society receptions and strange haunts so minutely observed in *A la recherche du temps perdu*, Proust guarded the privacy of the one place where he found a lonely happiness. The room where his life and memories were transformed into his great novel has long been a shrine in the minds of pilgrims whose own lives have been marked by immersion in *A la recherche*: but only now can devotees pay homage in person. The bank that owns the building has meticulously restored Proust's favourite room — adding only a vast photograph of the reclusive writer — and this week it was open to the public. Thousands of literary pilgrims are expected in the summer.

Visiting the room where a great work was engendered is increasingly popular, and not only with the literary cognoscenti. Seeing the walls, the furniture, the knick-knacks and

paraphernalia of the period conveys, almost subliminally, something of the period and the outlook of the writer: these were his favourite things, this is where his eye rested when he looked up from his manuscript. Indeed some writers are now so closely identified with their surroundings that their houses, and especially their studies, have become national monuments: Vita Sackville-West's gatehouse at Sissinghurst, Kipling's retreat at Cloud's Hill offer insights into the minds of writers who seem enigmatic and remote from contemporary taste. All three properties are owned by the National Trust.

Many artists are notorious for the bizarre conditions under which they worked. Aubrey Beardsley, pencil thin and etiolated like his drawings, worked only by candlelight; James Joyce shut himself up in a tower; and Roald Dahl conjured up witches in a garden shed. Prisoners have scribbled furtive chapters on smuggled scraps of paper. Queen Victoria wrote a gushing diary at her desk in Osborne House. Perhaps the least typical venue for a struggling author is the Riviera or a room at the Ritz. But for Joan Collins, at least, it has paid off: her blockbuster may soon be in the bookshops; and, as the critics note, "When you put it down, you can't pick it up again." The literary pilgrimages cannot be far behind.

## 'Poaching' doctors from South Africa

From Sir Raymond Hoffenberg

Sir, I am working temporarily in the Department of Health in South Africa. One of the problems we are discussing is the adverse effect of the emigration of doctors. Over the past ten years this has left South Africa seriously short of doctors, particularly in rural areas, and the Minister of Health is having to recruit doctors from Cuba temporarily to meet the shortfall.

To the dismay of all concerned with the maintenance of high standards in medical care in South Africa the UK is recruiting doctors from this country on a large scale to work in both the public and private sectors.

The salaries on offer to consultants and junior doctors greatly exceed those available in public service here. For example, one medical recruitment agency, advertising in the South African *Sunday Times* of January 21, offers an average pay for a senior house officer of R4,000 (about £755) per week; the comparable post of medical officer in South Africa offers roughly R1,000 (£189) per week.

It is easy to understand why so many young doctors are tempted to emigrate. It is far less easy to understand the morality of the employing agencies in the UK, NHS and private, to head-hunt.

South Africa cannot afford to lose doctors; it needs them to provide care to patients, for teaching and for research, especially in common local disorders.

It is estimated to cost about R750,000 (£140,000) to train a doctor in South Africa. A democratic country would not wish to impose an embargo on emigration, but it is not immoral for the NHS and other recruiting agencies to be poaching its doctors to serve British patients, to the detriment of already disadvantaged South Africans.

Yours faithfully,  
RAYMOND HOFFENBERG  
(President of the Royal College of Physicians, 1983-89),  
Department of Health,  
Private Bag X8282,  
Pretoria 0001,  
February 12.

## Scott inquiry

From Vice-Admiral Sir John Lea

Sir, I read with a wry smile the suggestion in Valerie Grove's interview with Sir Richard Scott (February 10) that politicians had accused him of aggressive interviewing (see also letter, February 12).

When I was Director-General of Naval Manpower and Training I was twice summoned before a Commons select committee, along with my Army and RAF colleagues and a senior civil servant. They were the most unpleasant and humiliating events in my entire career.

We were required to enter Parliament up a back staircase and wait in an empty sealed passage for a considerable time before being summoned. The chairman, a Labour MP, was both well-informed and courteous. His colleagues were neither.

We were all profoundly depressed by the experience and put it down to the sense of superiority, self-satisfaction and mutual admiration which thrives in the exclusive and cloistered atmosphere of Parliament.

I would like to think that exposure to questioning by Sir Richard Scott and his team would persuade MPs' committees to change their own ways, but I am not hopeful.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN LEA,  
Springfield, 27 Bright's Lane,  
Hayling Island, Hampshire,  
February 10.

## Web of intrigue

From Mr David H. Hall

Sir, To read your "Interface" supplement each week is to grasp what stout Cortez must have felt on seeing the Pacific (according to Keats).

The news (February 7) that Socks, the White House cat, now has a "web site" surely confirms that the empire-run is best left undisturbed.

I am, Sir, yours &c,  
DAVID H. HALL,  
15 Broughton Road,  
Banbury, Oxfordshire.

## Sport and TV

From Mr John Thompson

Sir, In their letter of February 6 the six heads of the major sports bodies state that the financial benefits flowing from the breakdown of the "cozy terrestrial broadcasting duopoly" have enabled money to be used for better stadiums, better training facilities, more help for the stars of tomorrow and better prospect of higher standards of achievement on the field.

I have been involved with football at a local league level with the Dartford and District Football League for the past 35 years. As a player I paid to play, and now, as an officer of the league, I contribute my services free of charge. There are hundreds and thousands like me throughout the country. Local leagues countryside are self-financing and, if they are anything like this one, they have never received a brass farthing from the higher echelons of the game.

I, and thousands of others, repre-

## Problems with Scottish devolution

From Mr Edmund Dell

Sir, In March 1974 a Cabinet committee, chaired by Harold Wilson, was appointed to consider proposals for devolution to Scotland and Wales (leading article, February 5; letters, February 10). I was a member. The motivation behind the proposals was to avoid prejudice to Labour's electoral chances in Scotland and Wales in the second general election expected later that year.

The proposals were based on three assumptions which their advocates thought should not be questioned:

1. That there would be no reduction in Scottish representation in the UK Parliament.

2. That what became known as the West Lothian question could be ignored.

3. That the people of England would continue to be levied for the benefit of the peoples of Scotland and Wales.

Although the principal motive for refusing any reduction in Scottish representation at Westminster was party advantage, another consideration was that Scottish influence on the distribution of resources within the UK should in no way be impaired. I was among those who opposed these proposals. But they were forced through for crude political reasons. Their fate is well known.

There has been no significant change to the 1974 proposals, apart from what has become known as the "tartan tax". Nor have any answers been found to the questions raised by the three assumptions of the earlier proposals.

Labour spokesmen, supported by Liberal Democrat MP, Alan Beith, in his letter of February 10, consider that a sufficient answer to the first and second assumptions can be found in the precedent of Northern Ireland. Such ill-considered repartee confirms that no more real thought has gone into the elaboration of the present devolution proposals than in 1974.

Nor does Lord Irvine provide any answer in his article of February 10, "Devolution is not a revolution". The

Judicial Committee of the Privy Council may be an appropriate institution for determining jurisdictional disputes between Westminster and Edinburgh, though its proposed role would appear to bring into question the sovereignty of the UK Parliament, but it cannot provide an answer to conflicts between the UK and Scottish Parliaments about the distribution of resources.

There is, indeed, no answer that avoids grievances building up on both sides; the English resentful of what they are required to give and the Scottish resentful of what they are expected to receive. Devolution will not add to the prosperity of Scotland. The clamour for independence will continue and will derive further strength from the failure of devolution to solve any of the real problems of the Scottish people.

The Labour Party claims that devolution is necessary to preserve the unity of the UK. It appears to imagine it is doing England a favour. But the real question is whether, if devolution is demanded as the *sine qua non* of the continued unity of the UK, that unity is worth years of bickering, probably ending in Scottish independence.

Yours faithfully,  
EDMUND DELL  
(Paymaster General, 1974-76),  
4 Reynolds Close, NW11,  
February 10.

From Lord Brand

Sir, With reference to Alan Beith's letter on Scottish devolution, I must state that when the late Lord Kilbrandon, who favoured devolution, asked the late Lord Fraser of Tullybelton and myself why we were against it, we both replied, "Because one Ulster is enough". That is still my view.

Yours etc,  
DAVID BRAND  
(Solicitor-General for Scotland, 1970-72),  
Ardgarden, 6 Marmon Road,  
North Berwick, East Lothian,  
February 10.

## Party leaders' letter on countryside

From Sir David Steel, MP for Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, I applaud the initiative of the CPRE in persuading Messrs Major, Blair and Ashdown to write a joint letter of commitment to support the countryside (February 9; also see letter, February 12). As I know only too well, all-party agreement is rare indeed.

Nevertheless, in common with your leader writer of the same issue, I fear that the challenge facing the countryside is more profound than simply the impact of development. Country people are already deprived of shops, education, transport and affordable housing; and in recent years too many of their jobs (which largely benefit those who live in towns and cities) and pastimes have become the butt of ill-informed scorn.

It is now widely believed, for instance, that it is unacceptable to transport live animals under even the most humane circumstances, regardless of the length of journey. And, whilst accepting no responsibility for its maintenance, increasing numbers consider that they should have the right to roam at will over other people's land, irrespective of the damage caused to crops or the natural habitat.

Country people are among the hardest working and most law-abiding groups in Britain. They do not look for special sympathy, but they ask for common respect, understanding and support. Those of us who sit in Parliament, irrespective of party, have a duty to ensure that they get it.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID STEEL  
(Executive Chairman),  
The Countryside Movement,  
11 Tufnell Street, SW1,  
February 14.

From Sir George Moseley, Chairman of the Civic Trust

Sir, The endorsement of the countryside protection by the three party leaders is laudable but hardly challenging. There is certainly no shortage of concern for the countryside; the Government has recently published a Rural White Paper (report, October 18,

1995) and we have a clutch of estimable bodies who speak for both the environment and the rural economy.

Sadly, the same cannot be said for our urban areas. The Civic Trust has been campaigning about urban quality for years, but we need much more official backing and our political leaders need to harness the energy of our voluntary bodies and communities to tackle urban problems.

We need to improve the environment of our cities and towns by investing in high-quality public transport systems, using their wasted land assets, increasing densities near transport interchanges, and above all by bringing people back to live in town centres. Unless this is tackled, we will continue to add more mediocre development to the edges of towns and villages.

Without government-backed and adequately financed co-ordination at the highest level, it is difficult to see how the kind of urban quality taken for granted on the Continent will ever be created or how pressure will ever be really taken off the countryside. As a first step, surely it is now time for the early drafting of an Urban White Paper.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE MOSELEY,  
Chairman,  
Civic Trust,  
17 Carlton House Terrace, SW1,  
February 13.

From Mrs Evelyn Craven

Sir, Have Messrs Major, Blair and Ashdown any appreciation of the sheer frustration felt by the ordinary "man in the street" on reading their joint letter?

Yes, of course the environment is important but so are poverty, homelessness, unemployment, ill-health and lack of education.

Any chance of a soupçon of "togetherness" on all — or even one — of these problems which blight the lives of so many of their fellow countrymen?

Yours faithfully,  
EVELYN CRAVEN,  
Keepers Cottage,  
Lanrick, Doune, Perthshire,  
February 9.

From Mrs David Griffiths

Sir, While it is obviously desirable that major sporting events should continue to be shown on terrestrial television, there is also an important place for the wider coverage given by the satellite companies.

Will the BBC or ITV ever be in a position — or, indeed, be willing — to show live, for example, every stroke in a Ryder Cup match, most games in the African Nations Cup soccer or extended periods of tennis tournaments all round the year?

The terrestrial presenters should also acknowledge the debt they owe to their satellite brethren in improving the coverage of sport, albeit through fuller use of new technology. Who was it who introduced the white pencil used on a regular basis to explain the positions of players on the cricket and football fields?

Yours faithfully,  
ANNE GRIFFITHS,  
16 Prince Albert Road,  
Regent's Park, NW1.

## Labour reply on school standards

From the Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment

Sir, The criticism by the Secondary Heads Association of Labour's proposals on school standards (report, February 13) suggests that the organisation's professed commitment to improving these standards stops short of supporting practical measures to bring such improvements about.

Labour is committed to putting the interests of parents and pupils as consumers before those of the producers of education. That is why we are proposing a national register of headteachers; we want to move towards a situation where no new head will be appointed without a suitable leadership or management qualification.

The SHA apparently believes that we intend to impose greater control on schools by local education authorities. In fact, we believe that schools should run themselves, not be controlled by LEAs, and that the proportion of the schools budget delegated to schools should be revised from the current minimum of 85 per cent to a new minimum of 90 per cent. Schools should set improvement targets. LEAs, together with parents, businesses and local colleges, will use them to draw up local plans to raise standards.

You also report that the SHA opposes homework guidelines. In our view, homework is so important to a child's educational development that we cannot afford to leave it entirely to the whim of individual schools. Our proposed guidelines will make it clear to parents that their child should expect homework from the age of seven and the homework clubs which we propose would offer a quiet space to children without one at home.

What parents would welcome from headteachers is more recognition of how much we need to do to raise standards. I would welcome positive proposals from the SHA to help in the critical task of lifting standards and matching our international competitors.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID BLUNKETT,  
House of Commons,  
February 13.

## Language matters

From Mr John Phillips

Sir, Your report (February 14) of Professor Jean Attchison's assertion, in her Reith Lecture, that language is ill-equipped to convey spatial information reminded me of the essay set in my Oxford entrance examination many years ago. I was invited to "describe a man riding a bicycle to an African native (sic) who has never seen a bicycle".

Perhaps other areas of linguistic inadequacy could be catalogued and we could agree, as Wittgenstein recommended, to remain silent about that of which we cannot speak.

Taste, perhaps? I have long wondered how the presenters of television wine programmes might set about describing the taste of a Brussels sprout.

Yours faithfully,  
J. A. PHILLIPS,  
6 Vicarage Gardens, SW14,  
February 14.

## Floral tributes

From Mr Rodney Legg

Sir, Non-floral death tributes, in the form of charity cheques, can also come with pretty cards and kind words (letters, February 1, 8 and 9).

The bonus, as I have found after my mother's recent funeral, is that her favourite animal rescue centre has benefited by £310. In the last week I have been able to drive past Ray Joliffe's field of donkeys at Poole with the pleasure of knowing that my mother has been feeding them through the recent snow. She would have liked that.

Yours sincerely,  
RODNEY LEGG,  
National School, North Street,  
Wincanton, Somerset,  
February 9.

From Mrs Bridget Bordewich

Sir, If I cannot go to a funeral taking a garden posy I send, by post, a small spray of rosemary from the garden with a card attached saying, "here's rosemary for remembrance (with etc)". The little spray will grow, if wanted, into a flowery, fragrant shrub, carrying memories over the years.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIDGET BORDEWICH,  
Ladies' Mile House,  
Grand Avenue,  
Worthing, West Sussex,  
February 9.

## As she is wrote

From Mr Robert Barnard

Sir, Surely the way for Random House to recoup the cost of the trial and the advance to Miss Collins (report, February 14; see also letters, February 12) would be to publish the first draft of her novel verbatim. It couldn't fail.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT BARNARD,  
Hazeldean, Houghley Lane,  
Leeds, West Yorkshire,  
February 14.







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to Judge T

OBITUARIES

# CAROLINE BLACKWOOD

Caroline Blackwood, Guinness heiress and novelist, died from cancer in New York yesterday aged 64. She was born on July 16, 1931.

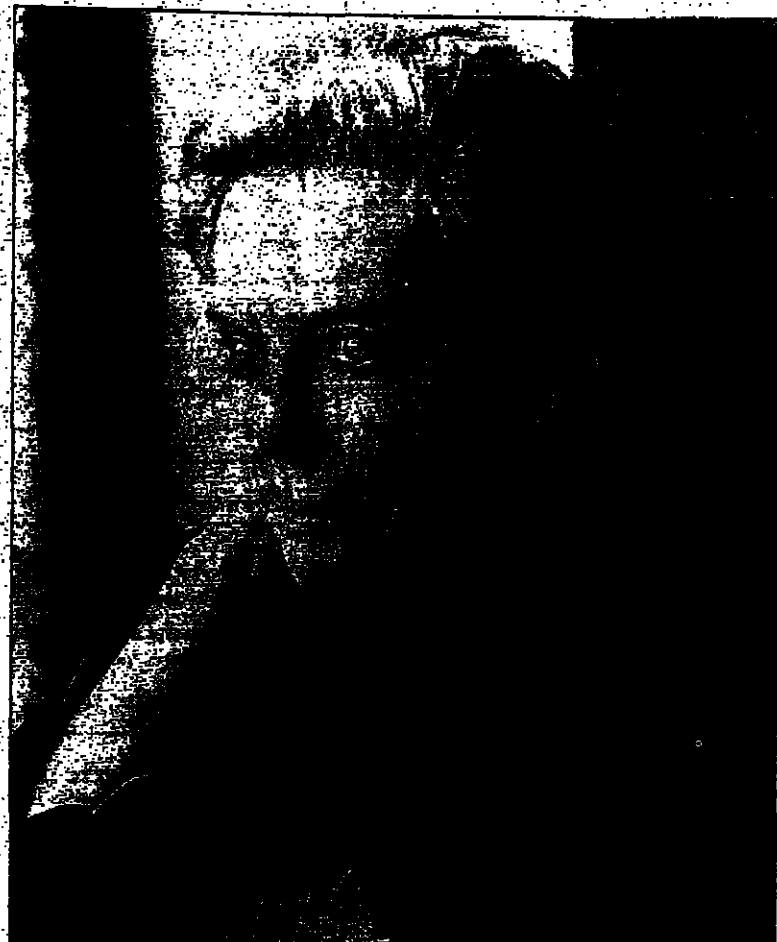
CAROLINE BLACKWOOD always knew that she would be a novelist. She was a writer of dark fiction, in which she explored repression, uneasy relationships, the subtle torture of one person by another. Though she relished the macabre, she had a keen sense of humour. Usually the laughter she invoked was nervous rather than joyful. Fiercely intelligent, she seized upon a point, worried it like a terrier, leading her readers unwittingly further down the path than they would ever willingly have gone. When she undertook research it sometimes seemed she was taking nothing in, but no detail escaped her. She could twist and exaggerate a tale, but she never lost credibility. Underlying all her work was a curious bond of sympathy, an awareness and sharing of suffering.

Caroline Blackwood was the product of two extraordinary families, the Blackwoods and the Guinnesses. Through her father, Basil, 4th Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, she descended from an ancient family of Scottish extraction, who settled in Ireland early in the 17th century. Her great-grandfather, Frederick Temple Blackwood, the 1st Marquess, enjoyed a distinguished career as Governor-General of Canada and Viceroy of India. On his mother's side, he was descended from Richard Brinsley Sheridan. Basil Dufferin, her father, was a Lord-in-Waiting to King George VI and a friend of John Bejman. He was killed in Burma in 1945, when Caroline was 13.

Her mother, who survives her, was Maureen Guinness, one of the three daughters of the Hon Ernest Guinness and a niece of the Earl of Trenchard. A legendary society figure, she brought the fruits of the brewing fortune to the Dufferins — and Clandeboye, their two-storey late-Georgian seat, near Bangor, Co Down, set in an idyllic park with a great lake and a number of follies.

Caroline Blackwood was raised at Clandeboye, modestly educated and emerged as a debutante of beguiling beauty, with her beautifully shaped head, huge blue eyes and golden hair. But the conventional path was not of her choosing. An Fleming introduced her to the young artist Lucien Freud, and was soon in trouble for "encouraging" the young man to pursue his "eccentric" art. She married him in 1953.

Lady Caroline eloped with Freud to Paris, her every move the subject of press scrutiny. She was the model for some of Freud's finest portraits, posing for him in the Hotel de la Louisiane above the Rue du Louvre. His *Girl in Bed* is her portrait, though a painting of Caroline and her sister never progressed further than one eye — minus the eyelash. She married



Freud in December 1953, when she was 22. They settled for a while in a Georgian house in Dean Street, London, and at Coombe Priory in Dorset. Their friends were Cyril Connolly and Francis Bacon and they frequented the Colony and Gargoyle clubs.

The Freuds divorced in Mexico in 1958, after which she married the composer, Israel Citkowitz. They had three daughters, the eldest of whom was the victim of a drug overdose. They separated before Citkowitz's death. In Santo Domingo in 1972 she married the American poet Robert Lowell by whom she had one son. They spent idyllic years at Millgate in Kent, though at various points the marriage was overshadowed by his manic depression. On one occasion Lowell locked her in her apartment for three days. The poet described her as "airy and very steady and sturdy in an odd way". He died in a taxi in 1977, clutching her portrait by Freud.

Lady Caroline's creativity found an outlet in her fiction. She began her literary life, working as a reader for Corgi Books at Hulton Press. She then became a journalist on *Encounter*, her first piece being an assured analysis of the California Beats in 1959, and journalism provided source material for her fiction. One of her earliest stories, *The Lunch*, was published in *The Observer* in 1978 and later reissued as *Taff's Wife*.

She wrote ten books in all. She was encouraged by Robert Lowell to produce her first book, *For All That I Found There*, a collection of short stories. Francis Wyndham praised the fun she derived from human silliness, noting: "She is also fascinated by human extremity — by horror, ugliness, pain. Her approach is bold — but never callous." *The Stepdaughter* (1976) was the story of a New York lady deserted by her husband, tormenting her stepdaughter in the luxurious apartment they shared. This novel won her the David Higham Prize.

*Great Granny Webster* (1977), probably her finest novel, was partly based on her childhood experiences and a dark portrait of her Dufferin grandmother. It examined the effect of a grimly austere old lady on several generations of her Anglo-Irish family. John Bejman called it "powerfully malicious" and it was shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

Her next novel, *The Fate of Mary Rose*, explored a deranged mother's obsession with her daughter's safety. *Goodnight, Sweet Ladies* (five short stories published in 1983) engendered such a feeling of claustrophobia in one reviewer that she was unable to read two of them in a single sitting. *Corrigans* (1984) examined the effect of the arrival of a man in a wheelchair on the life of a lonely widow. This was a less successful book.

*On The Perimeter* (also 1984) was a book of reportage, the result of her long evenings talking to the Women on the Wire, protesting against the nuclear installations at Greenham Common. It involved its author in a strange incident in which some soldiers "mooned" at her from a bus. She resented the insult, saying she was "shocked and appalled". Bernard Levin wrote a lengthy article in *The Times* accusing the thrice-married Caroline Blackwood of a degree of hypocrisy. The outcome was an unrepentant description of the incident in her book. The military barracks loomed at us from the windows of the bus. They looked like huge white one-eyed sea monsters in a tank.

In 1987 she published *In the Pink*, an investigation of the hunting scene, which included a study of "Masters", the late Duke of Beaufort, and the incident in which hunt saboteurs attempted to dig up his head and sent it to Princess Anne "treating him like the thousands of trapped foxes that he'd dug out of the earth in his lifetime."

Last year she enjoyed formidable success, although more so in America than in Britain, with *The Last of the Duchess*, a wicked, chilling, yet intermittently entertaining account of the relationship between the Duchess and her over-protective lawyer, Maître Suzanne Blum. The book was contentious and though written in 1980, could not be published while the notoriously litigious Blum was alive. At the time of her death Blackwood had turned her attention to transvestites.

Following the sale of a house in Leicestershire in 1987, Blackwood left England to live in America, settling in the former home of President Chester Arthur at Sag Harbor, Long Island. In 1995, after four years of legal wrangling, she lost a case against her mother in which she questioned Lady Dufferin's right to settle a trust fund on her grandchildren. Although it appeared that she was acting against the interests of her two daughters, the animosity between the litigants was much exaggerated in the tabloid press. All three generations of the family were in close touch during Caroline Blackwood's last illness and her mother flew out to visit her only last week.

In later life she sacrificed her beauty to vodka, though not her talent and she continued working to the end. (She had, to her delight, received a batch of books to review for *The Sunday Times* just two days before she died.) The novelist in her often twisted a story to the detriment of those she loved but they invariably forgave her. Late into the night she would talk and those blessed with a strong head, who could match her unflagging energy, found her a wonderful companion — outspoken, outrageous, wildly funny and never boring.

She is survived by one son (by Lowell) and two daughters (from Citkowitz), the elder of whom, Evgenia, is married to the actor Julian Sands.

# BOB PAISLEY

Bob Paisley, OBE, manager of Liverpool Football Club, 1974-83, died yesterday aged 77. He was born on January 23, 1919.



WHEN Bob Paisley retired in 1983 it was with the enviable accolade of being the most successful team manager in the history of British football. During his nine years at the helm he took Liverpool to six League championships in 1974, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1982 and 1983. To this he added a hat-trick of League Cups in 1981, 1982 and 1983. And he guided his club to three European Cup wins in 1977, 1978 and 1981; to the UEFA Cup in 1976 and to the European Super Cup in 1977.

The one major trophy that eluded him was the FA Cup, although more than once Liverpool were in the running. They were on course for a League and Cup double in 1977 when they took the field against Manchester United in the FA Cup Final, having clinched the League title only a few days earlier. In the event Manchester were to deny them this chance, beating them 2-1 on the day.

Yet only a few days more saw Paisley's team at their majestic best, in the final of the European Cup. On a warm night in the spectacular setting of Rome's Olympic stadium, Liverpool overwhelmed the German champions Borussia Mönchengladbach 3-1 in an imperious performance before tens of thousands of their ecstatic supporters.

Like many who made their mark on the game, Paisley came from the North East of England, being born at Hutton-le-Hole in Co Durham. He joined Liverpool as a sturdy wing-half from amateur Bishop Auckland in 1939 at a time when the man he most admired, Sir Matt Busby, was the team captain. But his career had hardly begun when war broke out, and he joined the Royal Artillery. He fought throughout the North African and Italian campaigns, taking part in the liberation of Rome.

After the war was over, Paisley returned to Liverpool to gain a first-team place, scoring a goal in the FA Cup semi-final against Everton. But he missed the 1950 final against Arsenal because of injury, a disappointment that remained with him for a long time. Hanging up his boots in the middle 1950s he became

the club's reserve team trainer, next first-team trainer, progressing to become assistant to the legendary Bill Shankly whom he was finally to succeed as manager. Shankly's retirement was as big a shock to him as it was to the rest of the footballing world. Paisley arrived back at Anfield from a holiday in Yorkshire, to find Shankly in the middle of his resignation press conference.

He was appointed manager three days later, but to follow in Shankly's footsteps was a huge challenge. Shankly had taken Liverpool to the top in that glamorous decade, the Sixties, which seemed so to belong to Liverpool. Shankly had become a folk-hero on Merseyside and was worshipped by the hordes on the Anfield Kop with whom he fully identified. In their different spheres the Beatles and Shankly were the Kings of Liverpool and the Mersey sound echoed all over the land to the strains of the Kop anthem "You'll never walk alone."

Paisley was, admittedly, part of this explosion but while Shankly was the star he had an unobtrusive part in the chorus line. His ambitions never went higher than that of team trainer or assistant, so that when he took over on Shankly's retirement he had no great thoughts about the future. He was prepared merely to steer the ship past the hidden rocks and head for calm waters. He never expected to equal, let alone surpass, the achievements of his departed leader.

His destiny was to be far more momentous than he could have expected. His 44 years at the club had played their part in keeping a tradi-

tion intact. He was a beneficiary of a well of pride and deep loyalty from all members of the staff and from the players themselves, for whom it was an honour to pull on a red shirt.

Paisley worked from good foundations. All the while he built new teams slowly with the injection of a new player or two in most seasons. It was remarkable how quickly new recruits were integrated and how smoothly they fitted the Liverpool style. Part of the secret lay in the fact that Liverpool sides — either Shankly's or Paisley's — were not bogged down tactically. "I didn't talk tactics because I was not taught tactics," said Paisley. He encouraged natural ability and kept the game as straightforward as possible. A quiet shy man, he never raised his voice to anyone.

Paisley's contribution to football was acknowledged both nationally and locally. He was appointed OBE in 1977 and made an honorary MSc of Liverpool University in 1983, in which year he also became a Freeman of the City of Liverpool. Among his publications were *Bob Paisley's Liverpool Scrapbook* (1979), *Bob Paisley: an autobiography* (1983) and *Bob Paisley's Assessment of the 1986-87 Liverpool Team* (1987).

He married, in 1946, Jessie Chandler. They had met in 1944 when he got on to a train and sat down on her sandwiches in his army greatcoat. For many years her salary as a primary school teacher supplemented his meagre earnings as a junior member of the backroom staff at Anfield. She and their two sons and a daughter survive him.

# MARTIN BALSAM

Martin Balsam, American film actor, died on February 13 aged 76. He was born on November 4, 1919.

MARTIN BALSAM graduated from what might best be described as a select junior school for actors — not quite a nursery because all had been performing before — as a

member of the cast of *Twelve Angry Men* (1957). Under the tutelage of Henry Fonda and sitting for twenty days in the classroom of the jury set, Jack Klugman, Jack Warden, E.G. Marshall and Martin Balsam gained a wealth of intensive acting experience, and a new recognition value with the public thereafter. Another actor on the set Lee

J. Cobb, who had been making films for some twenty years, described it as a turning point in his career. Before that Balsam had just one minor film role to his credit, as a stevedore in that epic of union corruption, *On the Waterfront* (1954), starring Marlon Brando and Rod Taylor. Now Balsam had delivered a performance which

would be the benchmark against which any subsequent work would be measured. It was a role which lacked the flamboyant advantages given to the other players, but Balsam grasped the opportunity with both hands. Patently, Fonda was the star, the man the cameras focused on throughout. Balsam was the jury foreman, the

job which by its nature was supposed to be a listening role. On top of this, his character was supposed to be that of an insignificant little high school baseball coach, not too bright and therefore not really able to articulate in the way the other men could. To make that part live required an actor of real talent. When Balsam was on screen, the viewer could almost smell the sweat staining the once-white sports shirt, which he wore, inconspicuously, with a black tie. When he announced his own change of plea to not guilty, a charge of electricity darted from the screen.

From then on the little man was allowed to grow — from a colonel in *Catch 22* (1970) to one of the *Washington Post* editors in *All the President's Men* (1976). Frequently, though, he played a Jewish businessman, often with a dowdy, domineering wife who looked as though she should have been played by Shelly Winters.

Notwithstanding this bit of typecasting, it was Balsam's versatility which impressed casting directors. Having played a stevedore and a jury foreman, he was later cast as a detective in Hitchcock's *Psycho* (1960); a camp antique dealer in *The Anderson Tapes* (1971); and one of the victims in *Raid on Entebbe*.

THE BROWNING LOVE-LETTERS. Mr. Robert Barrett Browning, by whose authority these letters are published, has seen to it that no unusual or proceeding required to be justified to the world, and he has accordingly prefixed to the book an explanatory note. He writes:

"In considering the question of publishing these letters, it seemed to me that my only alternatives were to allow them to be published or to destroy them. I might indeed have left the matter to the decision of others after my death, but that would be evading a responsibility which I feel that I ought to accept."

To say this was certainly to give permission to publish, but there will none the less be a difference of opinion as to whether the son has done well to avail himself of it. The letters are very intimate and very long, covering more than 1,000 closely printed pages.

The curious thing about the love of Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett is that it was kept a profound secret from everybody. Browning saw nothing of his new family and in the end, on September 12, 1846, Elizabeth and her faithful maid Wilson slipped out of the front door of No. 30, Wimpole Street, went round to St. Marylebone Church, and there the poet and the poetess were married — she to return home, to take off her ring, and a week later to join her husband in what was to all intents and purposes an elopement to Paris. The famous anger of the father is described in the earlier volumes of the letters published in months ago.



There was, however, an almost subliminal trademark which set him apart from other actors. He demonstrated it to perfection in *The Taking of Pelham 123* (1974) about the hijacking of a subway train. He did not just play a hijacker, but played him with a cold.

The sneezes of Balsam were moments for the cinema buff to cherish, but were prevented from doing so by the IBA.

Martin Balsam was born in the Bronx into the kind of Jewish family he depicted in films like *Marjorie Morningstar* (1958) and in the television sitcom *Archie Bunker*

*Place* (1981-82). His route out of the Bronx was typical for his background: evening classes at the New School for Social Research and war service in the US Army Air Force. This was followed by the Actors' Studio, where he learnt method acting, work in stock companies, and Broadway versions of *Macbeth* and *The Rose Tattoo*.

Films most suited his perception of himself as a journeyman actor, and they came thick and fast — about fifty of them. One of his last was *Cape Fear* in 1991 (he had also appeared in the 1962 version). But he was also excellent on stage, and he won a Tony award for his performance on Broadway in the early 1960s with *I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running*.

He did a considerable amount of television work, playing a mafioso in the Italian series *La Piovra* (The Octopus) and starred in 1985 in *Murder in Space*, in which audiences were invited to name the murderer (Central Television planned to give a £50,000 prize to the winner, but were prevented from doing so by the IBA).

Balsam was formerly married to the actress Joyce Van Patten. Their daughter Talia, who survives him, acted with him in the television film *Private Investigations*.

correspondent, 'only don't let us have any constraint, any ceremony.' A few days afterwards he is wishing that some way could be found 'to make my dear something intenser than 'dears' in ordinary, and 'yours ever' a thought more significant than the run of his life." Then came the first and subsequent meetings, and the address, on both sides grew to "God ever be as, dear friend," though of course the contents are, very mostly literary and more or less abstract. By August he calls her "my one friend without an 'other': till by-and-by we slip into 'dears'."

There is criticism — admiring but on the whole sound — of each other's verse, for this was the moment when Browning was bringing out the different parts of "Belis and Pomerganates," especially "Luria" and many of the shorter poems which have been household words to true lovers of poetry ever since. There are also occasional criticisms, sometimes rather sharp, of other writers: of Mrs Shelley, for example, and her book on Italy: "The 'Mary dear' with the brown eyes, and Godwin's daughter and Shelley's wife, and who surely was something better once on a time... once she travelled the country with Shelley on arm; now she plods it Rogers in hand... to such things and uses may we come at last!"

There are passages too of generous appreciation of some English contemporaries and especially of Tennyson, though we may perhaps detect here and there in Miss Barrett's judgments a natural unwillingness to place the future Laureate quite as high as her own "prince of poets"...

# PERSONAL COLUMN

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## LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Tel: 011 202 202 202  
Fax: 011 202 202 202

## LEGAL NOTICES

ON 1996 H.W. 2486  
IN THE COURT OF  
CHANCERY  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
(1) ROBERT ALAN HENNETT  
GO MARSHALL ROAD, PARK  
PLAZA  
(2) CLAUDE LEONARD  
GO MARSHALL ROAD, PARK  
PLAZA  
(3) CLAUDE LEONARD  
GO MARSHALL ROAD, PARK  
PLAZA  
NOTICE  
Take notice that an action has  
been commenced against you in  
the Chancery Division of the  
High Court of Justice, at the  
Court of Chancery, 2, Lincoln's  
Inn, London EC4A 3DF, on the  
19th day of February 1996.  
1. An Order of the Court has  
been made directing that you  
shall attend the trial of the  
action on the 19th day of  
February 1996 at 10.30 am  
at the Court of Chancery, 2,  
Lincoln's Inn, London EC4A  
3DF.  
2. An Order of the Court has  
been made directing that you  
shall attend the trial of the  
action on the 19th day of  
February 1996 at 10.30 am  
at the Court of Chancery, 2,  
Lincoln's Inn, London EC4A  
3DF.  
3. Alternatively, a declaration  
has been made that the claim  
is valid and that the claimant  
is entitled to the sum of £100,000.  
4. An Order of the Court has  
been made directing that you  
shall attend the trial of the  
action on the 19th day of  
February 1996 at 10.30 am  
at the Court of Chancery, 2,  
Lincoln's Inn, London EC4A  
3DF.  
5. An Order of the Court has  
been made directing that you  
shall attend the trial of the  
action on the 19th day of  
February 1996 at 10.30 am  
at the Court of Chancery, 2,  
Lincoln's Inn, London EC4A  
3DF.  
6. An Order of the Court has  
been made directing that you  
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action on the 19th day of  
February 1996 at 10.30 am  
at the Court of Chancery, 2,  
Lincoln's Inn, London EC4A  
3DF.  
7. An Order of the Court has  
been made directing that you  
shall attend the trial of the  
action on the 19th day of  
February 1996 at 10.30 am  
at the Court of Chancery, 2,  
Lincoln's Inn, London EC4A  
3DF.  
8. An Order of the Court has  
been made directing that you  
shall attend the trial of the  
action on the 19th day of  
February 1996 at 10.30 am  
at the Court of Chancery, 2,  
Lincoln's Inn, London EC4A  
3DF.  
9. An Order of the Court has  
been made directing that you  
shall attend the trial of the  
action on the 19th day of  
February 1996 at 10.30 am  
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Lincoln's Inn, London EC4A  
3DF.  
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been made directing that you  
shall attend the trial of the  
action on the 19th day of  
February 1996 at 10.30 am  
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Lincoln's Inn, London EC4A  
3DF.  
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been made directing that you  
shall attend the trial of the  
action on the 19th day of  
February 1996 at 10.30 am  
at the Court of Chancery, 2,  
Lincoln's Inn, London EC4A  
3DF.  
12. An Order of the Court has  
been made directing that you  
shall attend the trial of the  
action on the 19th day of  
February 1996 at 10.30 am  
at the Court of Chancery, 2,  
Lincoln's Inn, London EC4A  
3DF.  
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## NEWS

## Blair boycotts Scott preview

The Government was again thrown on the defensive over the Scott report when plans to allow a handful of politicians early sighting of the document were derided.

Tony Blair led a boycott of arrangements under which he and others were to be allowed to read the report at the Trade Department from midday. Mr Blair, Lord Richard, leader of the Labour peers, and the Liberal Democrat Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, said they had no intention of doing so under the "extraordinary and insulting" conditions. Page 1, 8

## Interest rates set to fall

City analysts and senior Conservatives joined forces to predict further cuts in interest rates in the wake of a Bank of England U-turn over inflation. Tory MPs forecast that base rates would tumble by 0.75 per cent to 5.5. Page 1

## Paisley mourned

Football supports in Liverpool united in mourning for Bob Paisley, the most successful manager in British soccer history. Page 1

## Ulster reinforcements

A force of 500 extra troops is to be flown to Northern Ireland as part of the Government's military response to the ceasefire breakdown. Soldiers from the Royal Irish Regiment will be deployed in border areas. Page 1

## Lawyers' row

The President of the Law Society launched a strong attack on his opponents after he was accused of being preoccupied with enemies and of being an ineffective reformer. Page 2

## Generation election

Two political opponents in Northern Ireland will watch their off-spring pick up their political mantle when they fight for the presidency of the Students' Union at Queen's University. Page 3

## Bishops in need

Faced with a vision of a cash-strapped bishop struggling with Tesco shopping bags, huge gas bills and mounting debts, the Church of England rejected calls to pay clergy equally. Page 5

## Telescope success

British physicists have perfected a telescope that can take a sharper picture than the Hubble space telescope. Page 6

## Baby price war

Health officials launched an investigation after a price war broke out among test-tube baby clinics. Page 7

## Pig rustlers

A Europe-wide shortage of pork and bacon, partly caused by a surge in exports to Japan, has led to pig rustling on a grand scale, said farmers and police. Page 10

## Dole nightmare

Robert Dole's address to New Hampshire's state legislature was that of a man facing his worst nightmare. The septuagenarian senator made no mention of his hollow victory in Monday's Iowa caucuses. Page 12

## War crimes decision

The war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia is about to indict the first Bosnian Muslims for war crimes. Page 13

## Italian crisis

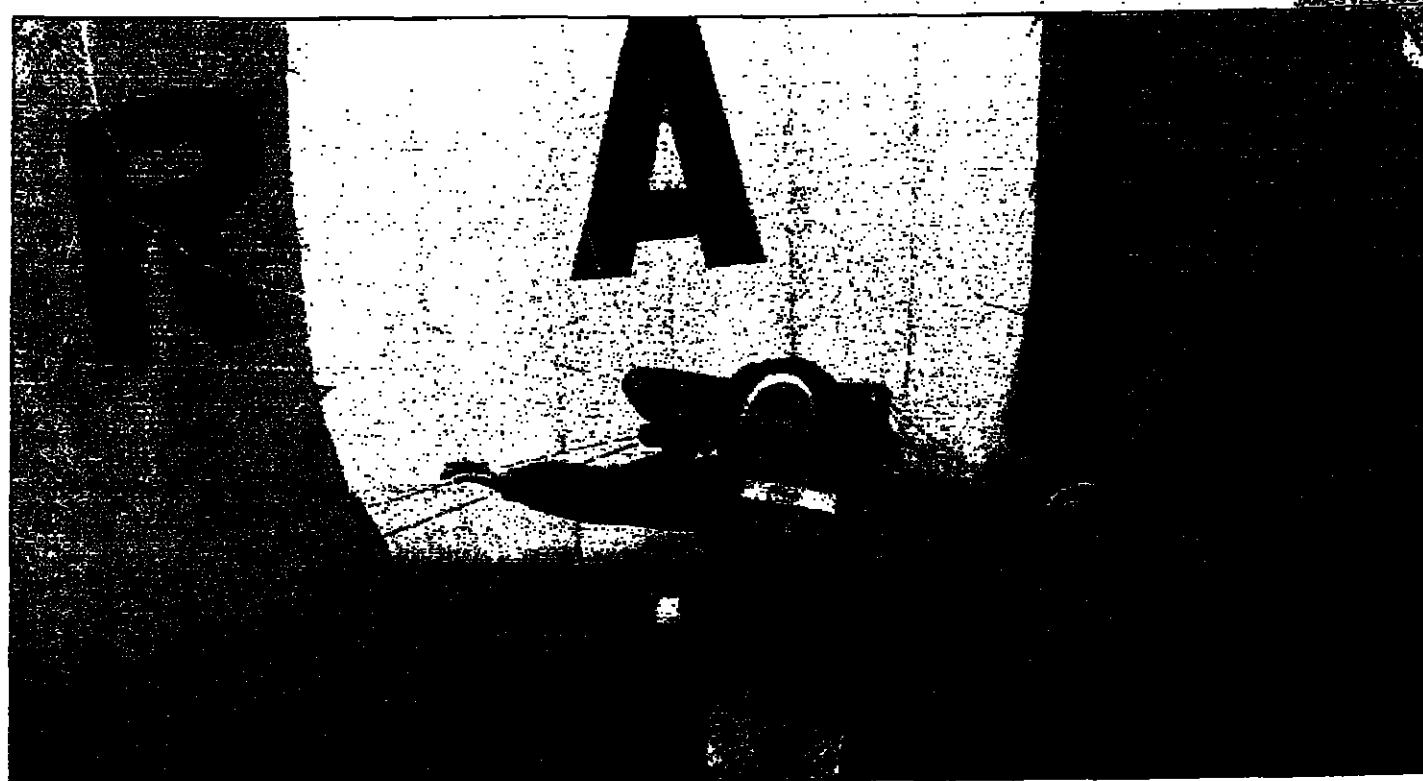
Italy was plunged into a fresh political crisis with a disruptive election campaign looking increasingly likely only weeks before the special European Union summit in Turin which Italy is due to chair. Page 14

## Mandela mystery

A woman, whose identity has not yet been disclosed, will accompany President Mandela of South Africa during his four-day state visit to Britain in July, his office has announced. Page 15

## 'Sherlock' Soames finds her treasures

The redoubtable Serena Soames, wife of the 16-stone Armed Forces Minister, was so enraged by the theft of her family heirlooms she spent three days roaming antique shops in the back streets of Brighton until she tracked them down. Her detective work in the South Coast resort brought her a £100 reward from the High Sheriff of West Sussex. Page 1



Sister Marjorie, 75, making a charity parachute jump with the RAF Falcon team at Weston-on-the-Green, Oxfordshire, yesterday.

## BUSINESS

**Late payments:** Small businesses have to wait an average of 77 days for payment and are owed a total of £128 billion, according to a survey that is likely to lead to calls for legislation. Page 23

**Economy:** The Government is more likely than not to hit its inflation target of 2.5 per cent or less in two years, according to the Bank of England inflation report. Page 23

**Hair care:** Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch consumer products group, is to spend £488 million on the acquisition of Helene Curtis, the hair care group. Page 23

**Markets:** The FT-SE 100 fell 2.6 to 3745.0. Sterling was unchanged at \$4.2 after a rise from \$1.5337 to \$1.5385 but a fall from DM2.2663 to DM2.2597. Page 26

## SPORT

**Cricket:** England, let down by their fielding, lost the opening match of the World Cup by 11 runs to New Zealand in Ahmedabad. Nathan Astle, who scored 101 for the winners, was named man of the match. Page 44

**Football:** The game mourns Bob Paisley, Britain's most successful manager, who died after a long illness. He guided Liverpool to 13 trophies in nine years. Page 42

**Athletics:** Diane Modahl began proceedings against the British Athletic Federation for compensation over her fight to clear her name of a drug offence. Page 44

**Rugby union:** Tony Russ, director of rugby at Leicester, denounced the strategy pursued by England this season. Page 41

**Board meetings:** The week's big new movie, *Jumanji*, brings a board game to life with spectacular special effects. Also reviewed is the new film version of *Othello* with Laurence Fishburne and Kenneth Branagh. Page 32

**Molière modernised:** At the Young Vic a fine cast led by Ken Stott and Elizabeth McGovern is presenting Molière's *The Misanthrope*, updated to 1990s London. Page 33

**Fame tutored:** How do you teach people to be famous? Andy Laverne sits in on the first weeks of Paul McCartney's Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts. Page 35

**Those rough notes:** At Covent Garden, *Aida* had a rough night, with a star soprano suddenly replaced. Page 35

**Killer cosmetics:** Make-up and moisturisers can be contaminated by bacteria on the hands of in the air. Kathryn Knight on the health dangers lurking at the bottom of your handbag. Page 16

**Tall storeys:** The world's fifth-tallest woman wants to build the world's tallest skyscraper. One reason may be that she stands barely five feet high. Quentin Letts talks to Nina Wang. Page 17

**The romance of Zola:** Derwent May reviews a biography of Emile Zola, the mordant critic and prolific interpreter of Second Empire France. Pages 34, 35

**Unity in Ireland:** Ministers responsible for tourism in both parts have joined forces to keep building on the renaissance which followed the ceasefire. Pages 36, 37

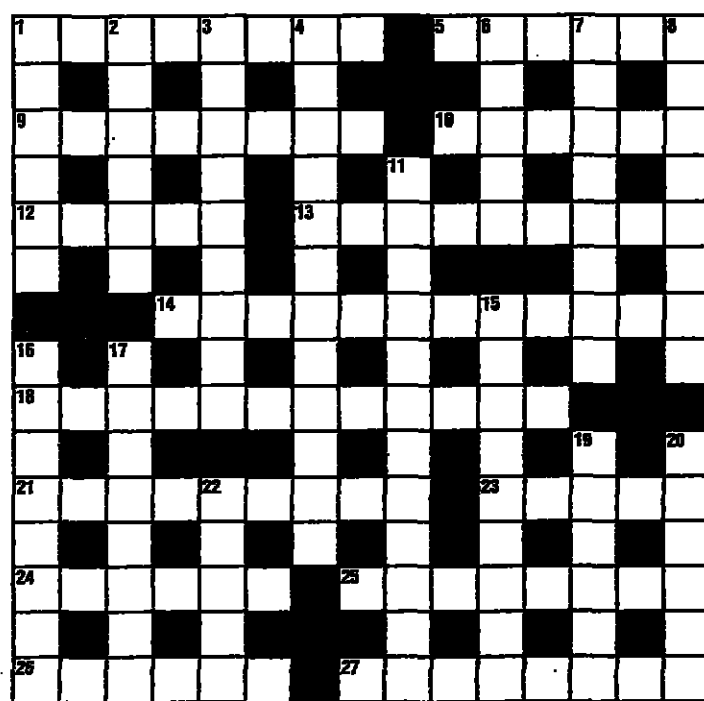
If social and economic conservatives cannot unite in this year's Presidential race, neither will like the results a new lease on political life for the discredited notions of redistributionist economics, class warfare and a continuation of the rampant secularism and value-neutral attitudes that prevail in our public institutions. —Wall Street Journal

## IN THE TIMES

**INTERVIEW**  
Valerie Grove meets anti-roads rebel, the Marchioness of Worcester

**EDUCATION**  
Rabbi Julia Neuberger on Jewish education and community cohesion

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,091



## ACROSS

- Figure of speech to hamper eccentric (8).
- Cruel, removing tail from bird (6).
- Woman on ground who is in charge of the diggings? (8).
- Putting name on correspondence is helping (6).
- What's tea put round in? (5).
- Everyone is embracing contrary girl, a native of South Africa (9).
- Cast down, as when *Faust* is presented fast? (12).
- Blinden footie about in the capital (12).
- Knight from Barcelona, possibly possessing money? (9).
- Refuse treatment at first — foolhardy (5).
- Be inclined to provide space for books (6).

## DOWN

- Tea with fine china? How delightful! (8).
- Drink in the sailor's world (6).
- Half pierce, being armoured on the outside? Only just (8).
- Evil intent of nursemaid following male (6).
- Local in group turning up for game (6).
- Safeguard for London theatre (9).
- Practised and made a cocktail (3-9).
- Country of vermouth nearly all year? (5).
- Old aircraft's flight over country road (8).
- People at it are close to fighting (8).
- Patch actor is suffering, as in denouement of tragedy (12).
- One who sniggers about wife is a nervous type (9).
- Co-ordinate basic reform fool overturned (8).
- Last users of rubbish (8).
- Ridiculing work from eccentric composer about king (6).
- Unkempt bird with grey wings (6).
- Carous, up in this bar (5).

## Solution to Puzzle No 20,090

SEMPERANCE AGENT  
I AM E R X A  
NONAGES REACTOR  
G I A T A R O  
LOCAL LINEAMENT  
E I I T M  
THOUSAND NISS  
O U E G M F S I  
NOTE REQUITED  
A K P A R E  
CONCERTS GABRI  
U E E U E  
TROOPER BOLLING  
T U O C H  
EATEN ENDOWMENT

Times Two Crossword, page 44

## TIMES WEATHERCAST

For regional forecast, dial 0991 500 followed by code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
West, Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset	704
West, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire	705
West, Shropshire, Cheshire	706
West, Lancashire, Yorkshire	707
West, Merseyside, Lancashire	708
West, North Yorkshire	709
West, Cumbria, Lancashire	710
West, Derbyshire, Staffordshire	711
West, Warwickshire, Leicestershire	712
West, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire	713
West, East Yorkshire	714
West, North Yorkshire	715
West, East Yorkshire	716
West, North Yorkshire	717
West, East Yorkshire	718
West, North Yorkshire	719
West, East Yorkshire	720
West, North Yorkshire	721
West, East Yorkshire	722
West, North Yorkshire	723
West, East Yorkshire	724
West, North Yorkshire	725
West, East Yorkshire	726
West, North Yorkshire	727
West, East Yorkshire	728
West, North Yorkshire	729
West, East Yorkshire	730

Weathercast is 30p per min (cheap rate), 45p other times.

## AA ROADWATCH

For AA traffic hotlines, dial 0338 431 followed by code.

Region	Code
London & SE	731
East of England	732
West of England	733
North of England	734
South of England	735
Wales	736
Scotland	737
Ireland	738
Channel Islands	739
Isle of Man	740
Jersey	741
Guernsey	742
AA Roadwatch is 30p per min (cheap rate), 45p other times.	

## HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.15 am Sun sets: 5.14 pm

Moon sets: 1.18 pm Moon rises: 4.18 am

New Moon February 18

London 5.14 pm to 7.14 am

Bristol 5.24 pm to 7.24 am

Edinburgh 6.18 pm to 7.17 am

Manchester 5.18 pm to 7.27 am

Perthshire 5.39 pm to 7.33 am

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## FORECAST

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The outlook in